ARMY RESERVE MAGAZINE

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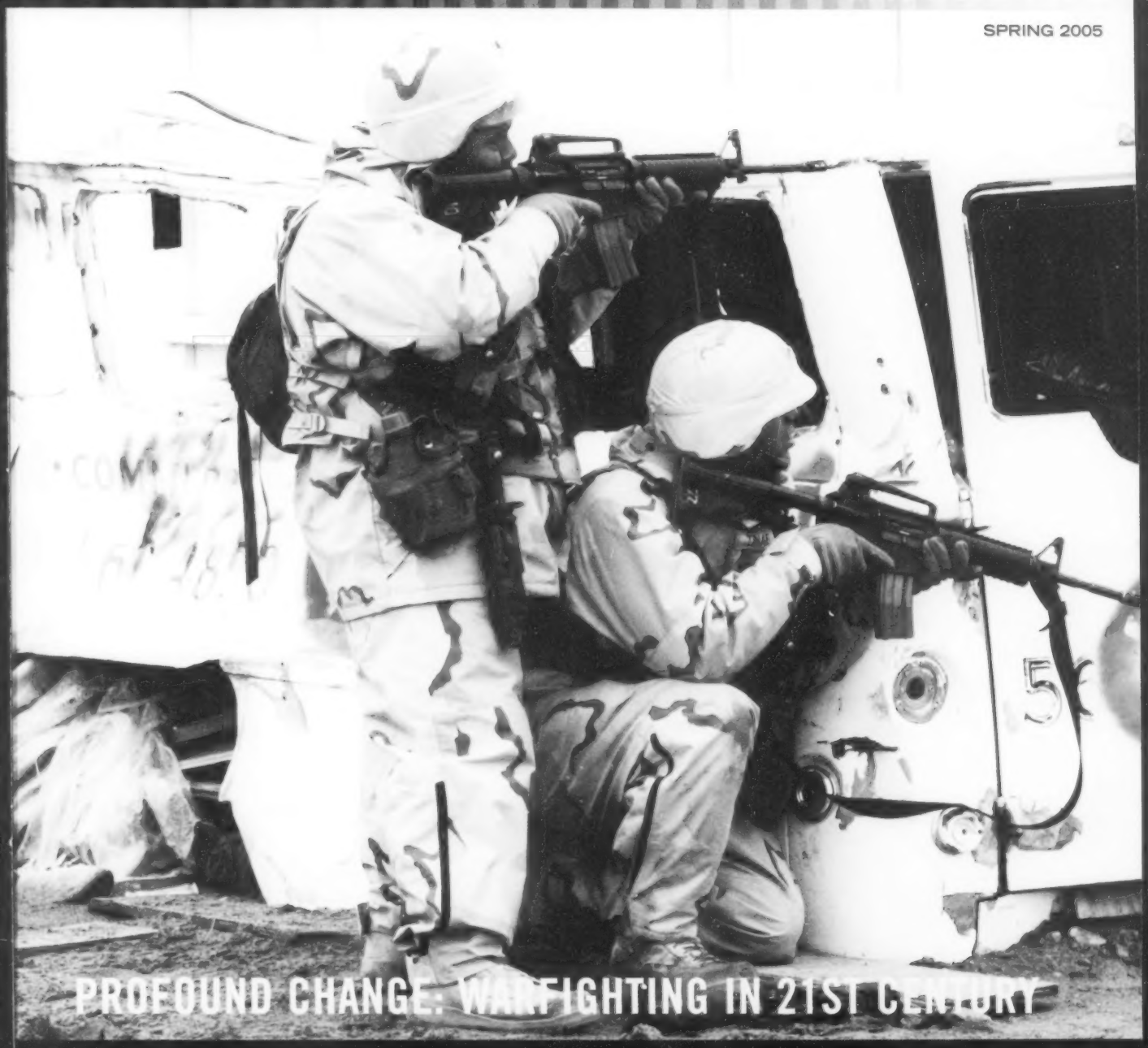

PROFOUND CHANGE: WARFIGHTING IN 21ST CENTURY

Significant Improvements for TRICARE

100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Deploys to Iraq

Winning the Fight Before It's Fought

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

ARMY RESERVE MAGAZINE

Since 1954.

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ON THE COVER

Soldiers from the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry conduct training in Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) at Fort Bliss, Texas.

(PHOTO BY PAUL ADAMS, U.S. ARMY RESERVE)

Also on the cover: The yellow ribbon symbolizes our commitment to honoring those of our Army Reserve Soldiers who have fallen, those who are missing and those who are serving around the globe. It will appear on each issue until they all come home.

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CSM Michele Jones ..... Command Sergeant Major of the Army Reserve
COL Geoff Jones ..... Director, U.S. Army Reserve Public Affairs
LTC Robbin M. Rutherford ..... Chief, Communications Division
Paul R. Adams ..... Editor, *Army Reserve Magazine*
Design Services ..... The Madison Design Group

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Team leaders of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry conduct After-Action Reviews with squad members following their training in Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT). (PHOTO BY PAUL ADAMS, U.S. ARMY RESERVE)

SUBMISSIONS · *Army Reserve Magazine* invites articles, story ideas, photographs, and other material of interest to members of the U.S. Army Reserve. Manuscripts and other correspondence for the editor should be addressed to Commander, U.S. Army Reserve Command, Attn: Public Affairs (ARM), 1401 Deshler Street, SW, Fort McPherson, GA 30330-2000, telephone 404-464-8500 or dsn 367-8500. All e-mail submissions should go to usarmag@usarc-emh2.army.mil. All articles ***must*** be submitted electronically or on disk or CD. Unsolicited manuscripts and photographs will not be returned. Query by letter.

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News Briefs

TRICARE BENEFITS IMPROVED SIGNIFICANTLY FOR RESERVE SOLDIERS

Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense

The National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2005, signed by President George Bush, improves significantly the overall health benefits available to Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers and their families and makes permanent several of the TRICARE benefits authorized "temporarily" under defense legislation last year while extending secretarial authorization for others.

"Our reservists and guardsmen who are called to duty and their families deserve these great new benefits for their service to their country," said Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs. "We welcome these new TRICARE provisions as a means to improve active and reserve component force readiness and to enhance family member access to care."

> "We have already begun working on these provisions and will implement them on time."

For reserve component members with delayed effective date orders to serve on active duty in support of a contingency operation for more than 30 days, the new legislation permanently authorizes TRICARE eligibility for up to 90 days prior to member's activation date for eligible members and their families. It also makes permanent a 180-day transitional TRICARE health benefit after deactivation for Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP) eligible members and their families. Members must also now receive a comprehensive physical examination prior to separating from active duty service.

The legislation also authorizes waiver of the TRICARE standard and extra deductibles of reserve component family members for members ordered to active duty for more than 30 days and authorizes TRICARE to pay nonparticipating providers up to 115 percent of the TRICARE maximum allowable charge, which enhances continuity of care for these family members with their civilian providers.

Members of the reserve component called after Sept. 11, 2001, to serve for more than 30 days in support of a contingency operation, who served or will continuously serve for 90 or more days, are now given the opportunity to purchase TRICARE standard healthcare coverage for themselves and their family members after they demobilize. The member must sign an agreement to continue serving for a period of one year or more in the selected reserve after their active duty ends. For every 90 days of consecutive active duty service, the member and family member may purchase one year of TRICARE standard coverage for the same period they commit to serve in the selected reserves.

Members will be able to purchase the new TRICARE standard coverage on a self-only or self and family basis. The TRICARE standard coverage under this program will begin once the member's eligibility for 180 days of transitional TRICARE coverage under the TAMP program ends. Members who served on active duty in support of a contingency operation for 90 days or more on or after Sept. 11, 2001, and were released from active duty before Oct. 28, 2004, or within 180 days of that date, may enter into an agreement to serve continuously in the selected reserve for a period of one or more years and begin participation in this program at that time. These members must enter into this agreement to serve in the selected reserve within one year of Oct. 28, 2004.

Congress requires implementation of the new TRICARE standard enrollment program by April 26, 2005. Winkenwerder stated, "We have already begun working on these provisions and will implement them on time."

Additional information on the new permanent TRICARE provisions to include start dates, benefits and requirements under each of the new permanent provisions will be posted on the TRICARE Web site at **http://www.tricare.osd.mil/** and the reserve affairs Web site at **http://www.defenselink.mil/ra** as soon as each is ready to begin.

ROA GRANTS FREE MEMBERSHIP EXTENSIONS TO MOBILIZED RESERVE MEMBERS

WASHINGTON — The Reserve Officers Association (ROA) is extending free memberships for up to two years to members who have been mobilized to support Operations Noble Eagle, Iraqi Freedom, or Enduring Freedom. ROA's Executive Committee unanimously approved the program to show the Association's appreciation and support to Reserve members serving their country on active duty.

"As a military-based association committed to national security and the members who provide that security, extending free memberships is the least we can do for Reservists," said retired Air Force Reserve MG Robert Nester, president of ROA. "The last thing we want our members and their spouses worrying about while they're serving their country on active duty is the status of their memberships," Nester added.

As part of the new service ROA will extend memberships free of charge for up to two years, the maximum time for which Ready Reserve members can be mobilized when the President declares a national emergency. The only benefit suspended is that the extended members will not receive the paper copy of the association's magazine, *The Officer*, while they are deployed. The magazine is still available to them and all ROA members at **www.roa.org**.

Extended members will have to renew their memberships when they return from active duty or become life members to continue to receive the magazine.

"What a great way to show appreciation for our service!" said MAJ John C. Jacobi, an Army Reserve Soldier who just returned from a 369-day deployment to Iraq and took advantage of this special offer. "It's gestures like these and the work ROA does for all of us on the front lines in Washington while we are fighting for our country that I belong to the association and became a life member when I returned (from Iraq)," he added.

"I know that the ROA has given its members a lot and continues to fight to eliminate disparities between Reservists and the Active Component," Jacobi said. "This is why it is so important for the ROA to work with and educate our elected officials in Washington D.C., surfacing issues to change that which make sense for the Total Force."

"I know that the ROA has given its members a lot and continues to fight to eliminate disparities between Reservists and the Active component."

To initiate an extension of membership, members or their next of kin should call ROA headquarters at (800) 809-9448, ext. 727, or e-mail the ROA Membership Director LTC Mike Boone at **mboone@roa.org**. ROA continues its long tradition of "Serving Those Who Serve."

The Reserve Officers Association is a member-based association with 75,000 members from all of the uniformed military services. Located on Capitol Hill, the Association was founded in 1922 and advocates for rights and benefits of its members and for a strong Reserve Component in support of national defense.

84TH ARMY RESERVE READINESS TRAINING COMMAND (PROVISIONAL) LOCATES AT FORT MCCOY

Public Affairs Office
84th Army Reserve Readiness Training Command (Provisional)

MILWAUKEE — The Global War on Terrorism is causing the U.S. Army Reserve to change its structure and methods of training.

As part of this change, effective Oct. 1, 2004 the 84th Division (Institutional Training), headquartered in Milwaukee, became the 84th Army Reserve Readiness Training Command (ARRTC) (Provisional) with head-quarters at Fort McCoy.

The 84th Division (IT) no longer will be a division but a "Military School and Training Center."

The new 84th ARRTC (Prov) will be comprised of five directorates: Schools, Training Development, Strategic Training, Leadership Development and Advanced Distributive Learning. The mission of the 84th ARRTC (Prov) is to develop, sustain and deliver a wide spectrum of military courseware and leader development instruction.

It will be commanded by MG Charles E. Gorton, the commander of the 84th Division (IT). The transition is a result of an Army-wide reorganization effort. The goal of the transformation is to produce a more ready and trained force. The transition culminates after a year's worth of planning.

The 84th ARRTC (Prov) will command the U.S. Army Reserve Noncommissioned Officer Academies at Fort Dix, N.J.; Fort McCoy; and Fort Lewis, Wash. It will help develop training for the U.S. Army Reserve in concert with the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command and its schools for Engineer, Military Intelligence, Military Police, Signal, Chemical, Civil Affairs, Personnel Services, Transportation, Quartermaster, Transportation and Ordnance located throughout the country.

The new command also will oversee Army Reserve leader-development training, development of Web-based training and distance learning and coordination of training done in other services and government agencies.

The major subordinate commands of the 84th Division (IT) located in Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Indiana will merge with the 100th Division (IT), headquartered in Louisville, Ky. The merger is targeted to be complete by October 2005. All current members of the 84th Division (IT) will retain a position and most will continue to train in their current location.

The 100th Division (IT), which also is being restructured, will merge a portion of its units to the 108th Division (IT). This merger plan will help maintain a regional U.S. Army Reserve presence and improve manning and personnel readiness levels for the Army Reserve.

DEPLOYMENT CYCLE SUPPORT PROGRAM BENEFITS SOLDIERS

When Soldiers redeploy from an overseas operation or complete a CONUS-based mobilization, they have a strong desire to get home as quickly as possible. In the redeploying process, all Soldiers go through the Army's Deployment Cycle Support (DCS) Program, but they don't fully appreciate what they are experiencing. "Because of their intent to get home quickly, they may not be in a listening mode at a critical time in the redeploying/demobilizing process," says Terrance Spoon, Well-Being Program Manager with the U.S. Army Reserve.

"This is unfortunate because many (Soldiers) don't fully understand the full range of benefits available to them, and the support that is in place to help them deal with readjusting back to civilian life," Spoon said. "This support can

provide reunion help with spouses and children, employment/reemployment assistance, medical treatment, and personal social readjustment."

DCS is a Commander's program and Sergeants' business. It is the Army's three-phased personnel operation plan for the return of all mobilized and deployed Soldiers and DA civilians. Its purpose is to reintroduce Army personnel into pre-conflict environments to facilitate reconstitution of families, Soldiers' and deployed civilians' individual lives, and the force. Its major components are education, assessment, and processing.

> "This support can provide reunion help with spouses and children, employment/reemployment assistance, medical treatment, and personal social readjustment."

According to Spoon, DCS is conducted in-depth. Phase I (Redeployment) begins when the unit is released from its mission and reports to the rear assembly area in theater. Phase 2 (Demobilization) involves executing five to seven days of reintegration training at the Power Projection Platform from which the unit mobilized. Phase 3 (Reconstitution) occurs at Home Station during unit battle assemblies and consists of a series of sustainment tasks. All tasks on the DCS checklist must be completed. Any task not completed in a previous phase must be accomplished during the next phase.

Spoon points out that effective two-way communication between in-theater commanders and their rear detachments is essential for successful completion of DCS. As the primary conduit for information between forward deployed units and their Family Readiness Groups (FRGs), rear detachments are responsible for communicating redeployment travel plans to families.

Additionally, Rear Detachment Commanders (RDCs) are responsible for the completion of all actions identified in the DCS Concept Plan for Global War on Terrorism Post Conflict/Mobilization Personnel Operations, otherwise known as the DCS CONPLAN, that are to be accomplished by Army Reserve families to facilitate their reunion with returning Soldiers. This includes reintegration training for spouses and family members, marital assessments, the identification of high risk spouses and family members, and ensuring behavioral health assets are available to provide assistance in individual reconstitution.

Army One Source (AOS) is a great tool that is available 24/7 at 1-800-464-8107. It provides personalized support for any issue with private consultation in person or over the phone, and referrals to military and community resources.

The full range of medical and dental benefits is significant. Soldiers need to know what they are entitled to. To receive assistance, Soldiers and family members may call TRICARE at 1-800-700-8646, M–F 8 a.m.–7 p.m. (EST). Soldiers are eligible for Army Career Alumni Program (ACAP) services, including one-on-one career counseling, resume assistance, and workshops, for 180 days after release from active duty (REFRAD). ACAP help is available at 1-877-722-2270, M–F, 7:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m. (EST).

ARMY RESERVE ENGINEERS IMPROVE ROADS FOR BORDER PATROL

By SGT Chris Pisano
361st Public Affairs Detachment

On one side there is Mexico. On the other there is the United States of America. Belonging to both countries yet separating them is the city of Nogales, Ariz. While Border Patrol agents work to keep illegal immigrants and drugs out of our country, especially in a high activity area like Nogales, sometimes they run into road blocks — literally.

PHOTO: USAR

Soldiers of the 328th Engineer Company reshape a rough and hilly landscape into a smooth road.

Enter Army Reserve Combat Engineer Soldiers from the 328th Engineer Company (Light), 77th Regional Readiness Command, from Northfield, NJ, who are clearing the way.

On the unit's third and final rotation to Nogales, the mission to support the efforts of the Border Patrol continues. Once finished, this final group of troops from the 328th will be responsible for having cleared out a half-mile stretch of raw road that runs along the fence line separating the United States from Mexico, and the city of Nogales.

"Our mission is to level this stretch of road and solve all of its drainage issues," said SFC Thomas E. Cavileer Jr., Noncommissioned Officer in Charge with the 328th. "We'll be giving the Border Patrol a smooth road so they can get from point A to point B faster, which is critical to their mission."

"We're helping out the Border Patrol so they will have a clear path to better react to any individuals or incidents along the border," said CPT John A. Coppola, 328th company commander. "This is our annual training — with an emphasis on training. Joint Task Force (JTF) 6 put the request in for this mission, and the 328th was glad to answer the call."

JTF6, operating as a part of the Department of Defense, provides missions for military units to volunteer to support local, state and federal support for counter-drug agencies, said Cavileer.

However, the 328th has seen its share of action. Having completed missions in places like Germany and Guatemala, they are more than able to perform their duties. While not a part of this Annual Training (AT), a section of the unit just returned from a nine-month deployment to Afghanistan, and some of the unit's troops are currently serving in Iraq.

Due to the mobilizations, the unit's equipment was unavailable for the Nogales mission, which is why civilian machinery was being used. Even armed with an array of bulldozers, cranes and other heavy equipment, the unit's task of reshaping a rough and hilly landscape into a smooth road was no Sunday afternoon drive.

"Our work has been cut out for us, though," said Cavileer. "You should have seen this area when we first arrived. It was simply impassable. We got here and hit the ground running to change that."

The 328th will only be charged with the task of making the rugged borderline land a passable path, said Coppola, while the Border Patrol will eventually pave the road. And in a display of true professionalism and commitment, the interaction between the Soldiers of the 328th and the members of the border patrol has been a perfect marriage.

"They've been nothing but excellent to us," said Cavileer. "They are looking out for us, providing safety. They're happy with our support, and we're happy to give it."

"As members of the military, we can't get involved in any policing actions along the border," said Coppola. "So anything we see out here we report to border patrol and let them do their job while we do ours."

A job indeed — pulling over two weeks worth of 12-hour days of non-stop road work under the unforgiving, broiling-hot Arizona sun.

"The weather here has been over 100 degrees Fahrenheit for the past four days," said SPC Laiping Tse of the 328th. "I am going through a 70 ounce camelback every four hours. Yes, we do go through a lot of water out here."

SGT Duane A. Graves, a supervisor in the 328th, was the sole member of the contingent that returned from its deployment to Afghanistan to take part in the unit's annual training. According to him, coming straight from the desert, the Arizona heat is a breeze.

> "Getting enough stick time with Army Reserve Soldiers, especially new ones, is always a challenge."

"Sure it's hot here, but this is nothing compared to Afghanistan. We get the troops to drink water and watch out for each other, so it's really no sweat out here," he said.

"Things have been going incredibly well," said Coppola. The temperature may be high, but so is the morale."

"I absolutely love this work. In fact, this is my 23rd AT doing this," said Graves, a long-distance truck driver in the civilian world and family man with a wife and three children. "I've never been to Arizona before, so I had to see what it was like. I really love the Army. In fact, I just signed on for four more years."

"It's a really good project here in Nogales. This work is right up my alley," said Cavileer, a former superintendent of a demolition company — this being his first time to Arizona as well. "I'm having a lot of fun out here. We're happy to be working for two weeks. It's exciting to be here on the border. And it's great for the new Soldiers to get this real world experience," he said.

"I just came home from advanced individual training three months ago, and now I am actually here on a real world mission," said PFC Christopher C. Slininger of the 328th, who actually does this work in the civilian world. "This is great. I would not have it any other way."

"A lot of the troops do this type of work on the civilian side," said Coppola. "So even if he's a private, he can show other Soldiers what to do as well. It's a very good atmosphere for unit cohesion."

However, since there are new Soldiers in the unit on this AT who aren't as experienced, one of the challenges has been getting them experience on the equipment.

"Getting enough stick time with Army Reserve Soldiers, especially new ones, is always a challenge," said Graves. "Sure I can talk to them about how to operate the machinery, but they need to learn how to do it for real. So annual training like this is ideal."

"This mission is good for the new Soldiers in the unit," said SSG Jose M. Leon of the 328th, a New Jersey corrections officer who has 10 years of working with heavy road equipment. "This gives them hands on experience. There is no better training than that."

Soldiers of the 328th Engineer Company clear out a half-mile stretch of road that runs along the fence line separating the United States from Mexico, and the city of Nogales.

PHOTO: USAR

"We do not get to use our equipment as much as I would like on our drill weekends, so being here is a definite plus," said SPC Martha Bialkowski of the 328th. "The days are long and hard, but it's all worth it in the end. You don't stop until the job is done."

"In the 328th, Reserve duty doesn't end at five o'clock on the Sunday afternoon of drill weekend," said Graves. "We constantly read the manuals in our free time. We talk with each other and ask questions. The training goes beyond the weekend."

"From blueprints to end results, it's all about serving your country, training and being able to drive on."

"We're definitely a road crew. (Engineer) Combat Light is capable of dropping anywhere in the world and do anything within our means," said Cavileer.

"When this project started here, there was nothing but dirt and rocks," said Leon. "Now there is a road that makes it easier for the border patrol to do their job and keep America safe."

"From blueprints to end results, it's all about serving your country, training and being able to drive on," adds Graves.

Cavileer seconds that. "The end results will speak for themselves. The members of the 328th know what they're doing."

Said Coppola, "Building combat roads and trails is what we do."

SAFETY FIRST, PLAN AHEAD BEFORE DRIVING OFF

By Paul Leach
Safety Office
U.S. Army Reserve

With the OPTEMPO remaining high, a growing trend is for Soldiers to attempt to drive several hours home after a long duty day. If this is you, then you are at risk as you become more fatigued, the roads straighter and more deserted, and the night becomes longer. While it is understandable that you would want to maximize your time at home before leaving the country for several months, having a Privately Owned Vehicle (POV) accident, which can result in serious injury and/or death to you or a passenger, is a definite possibility.

This may sound harsh, perhaps even alarmist, but the fact is that too many young Soldiers are dying on highways in their POV on the way home for what they believe may be their last opportunity to visit their family.

The other side of this coin is that some Soldiers are leaving home very early in the morning to return to their duty station or to go to their battle assembly. The results of having a POV accident while fatigued can be catastrophic.

Leaders have a duty to ensure their Soldiers are in good shape when they leave the unit. Not only should they check their Soldiers' vehicles, they should ensure they are well rested and up to the drive they're about to make. But it's up to you, once you leave the unit, to make sure you stay fit for the drive. Leaders must ensure their Soldiers complete the POV Risk Assessment, ASMIS-1 prior to departing the unit. The POV Risk Assessment can be located on the Army Safety Center Web site **https://safety.army.mil** and then select "Tools."

Here are some examples of accidents that could happen while driving tired:

- Driving off the road into a ditch, a tree or power pole.
- Crossing the centerline and striking an oncoming vehicle.
- Entering the interstate highway going the wrong direction and striking an oncoming vehicle.
- Wandering from lane to lane as you drive and striking a passing vehicle, or one that you are passing.
- Being unable to negotiate corners.
- Missing a stop sign, red light, or other traffic signal or sign.
- Driving too fast as your foot relaxes and presses down on the gas pedal.

There are many more things that can happen as a result of driving tired, but the bottom line is the same: the risk of having a serious accident is too great to accept. So, what can you do about it?

- The ideal solution is to be well rested before driving a long distance.
- Stop for a nap when you become tired.
- Take frequent breaks.
- Take a friend to keep you company or help drive.
- Give yourself plenty of time to make your trip to allow for breaks and naps. Plan accordingly!

Get the idea? We, and your family, would rather have you safe than not at all.

YOUNG CITIZENS LEARN WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A PATRIOT

By David Watson
Public Affairs Office
94th Regional Readiness Command

LEOMINSTER, Mass. — A group of young citizens living in middle Massachusetts have been learning that Americans enjoy their freedom because of the personal sacrifices of patriots — veterans who stood in the gap to guarantee freedom's continuance.

Home school students of the Montachusett Area Christian Home School (MACH) group gathered with their families at the Veteran's Center in Leominster, Mass. on Oct. 29 to honor a group of veterans who came to share their experiences with them.

Opening the event with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer of protection for our country's service members, attendees listened intently as eight veterans shared the experiences of their service to our country.

"It is good exposure for kids to know what our Soldiers do for us, and why we are able to have the freedoms we have," said Darlene Burns, one of the event's coordinators. "It makes it very real for us to hear first-hand from the Soldiers who protect us."

"It is good exposure for kids to know what our Soldiers do for us, and why we are able to have the freedoms we have."

Wide-eyed children listened intently as SGT Tammy Shiffer, 23, of the 94th Regional Readiness Command (RRC) Office of the Staff Judge Advocate (OSJA) shared the experiences of her deployment to Balad, Iraq as a Soldier with the 325th Military Intelligence Battalion.

In between stories of enduring sand storms and 130 degree temperatures, she spoke about the desire she had as a teenager to defend that which was most precious to her — the freedoms and liberty she has as an American.

"[The decision to enlist] was something that I had to do. I just felt it was important," said Shiffer.

"It makes me feel proud to know that there are kids like these who want to know what it is like to serve," continued Shiffer. "I think that it is good for kids to know what it is like to serve in the military."

She also spoke about how women in Iraq are treated and what it is like to serve as a female Soldier in the Army Reserve.

In contrast, Don Mulry, a 79-year-old decorated veteran of the 94th Infantry Division and the European battlefields of WW II spoke about the necessity to answer our nation's call to arms.

He related the difficulties of battlefield survival and talked about the necessity for young Americans to develop an individual sense of patriotism.

"It is important to inculcate into the minds of our nation's youth the importance of patriotism," said Mulry.

"It is satisfying to see school children interested in patriotism and to know that the future of our country is learning its importance. [The parents] are doing a great job with those kids," said Mulry.

Other veterans spoke about serving our country during peacetime and how important it is for citizens to make sacrifices for their freedom.

They spoke about how each American must one day weigh in their minds whether it is more important to have a comfortable bed to sleep in or to be one of those who makes it possible for others to have that sense of comfort.

Meeting weekly since the start of the school year, the MACH home school students have been studying the impact of patriotism on our freedoms and liberties, while memorizing important patriotic songs including those representing each branch of our country's armed services.

The project was conceptualized by Betsy Feidler, a parent and member of the home school organization. "We started by learning patriotic songs including the Star-Spangled Banner and the Battle Hymn of the Republic, and the history and sentiment behind them," said Feidler.

Feidler went on to talk about how the students learned the history behind why the songs were written and each author's biography.

"While I was fighting that war, I never in my wildest dreams thought that I would ever receive the kind of appreciation that I get from people today."

To further enhance the lessons, students were encouraged to bring in photographs of veterans known to them and to tell their stories to their classmates.

At the event's climax, students wearing shirts they had tie-dyed red, white and blue, honored each veteran with their service song and gave them cards of appreciation.

"I was impressed with how the children sat with such rapt attention as each veteran told their story. It was amazing how well they paid attention," concluded Feidler.

Speaking about the tribute given to him, Mulry stated, "While I was fighting that war, I never in my wildest dreams thought that I would ever receive the kind of appreciation that I get from people today. [The event] was a wonderful experience for me. I thoroughly enjoyed it." ARM

Profound Change

THE CHIEF, ARMY RESERVE ADDRESSES "COURAGE TO CHANGE" IN THE ARMY RESERVE

LTG James R. Helmly
Chief, Army Reserve
Commanding General, U.S. Army Reserve Command

We are an Army Reserve serving an Army and a Nation at war. Tens of thousands of our Soldiers are serving courageously around the world. Army Reserve Soldiers are either deployed, preparing to deploy, or returning from deployment. Today, a call to active duty is no longer a remote possibility, but rather an expectation for which all of our Soldiers, their families and employers, must prepare.

PHOTO: SFC JOHN VALCEANU

Make no mistake — our Soldiers know that service involves sacrifice. Any success attributed to the Army Reserve in the Global War on Terror is due to our Soldiers' sacrifice and courage, both at home and abroad. They have bravely answered their Nation's call to duty and they have sacrificed as they trained, mobilized and deployed. More than anything, I am extremely proud of every Army Reserve Soldier. I am grateful for their service to our Nation, and I tell that to every audience I speak to, from reporters and members of Congress to employers and industry executives. I am honored and humbled to be among them.

PFC Patricia Henry, 9th Theater Support Command, returns fire on enemy personnel while conducting a raid during Exercise Samurai Sword. The exercise is designed to provide warrior-focused training for enlisted combat service support Soldiers.

PHOTO: PAUL ADAMS

Special Recognition Ceremony. The first Army Reserve Soldiers to receive the new "Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen Award," SPC Christopher S. Lunsford, SSG Juanita Wilson and SSG Joseph L. Bowser, (left to right in civilian clothes), stand with LTG James R. Helmly, right, Chief, Army Reserve, and CSM Michele Jones, far left, command sergeant major of the Army Reserve and CSM Nicholas Piacentini, command sergeant major of the U.S. Army Reserve Command. Each Soldier received an encased American flag, a specially-designed commemorative coin and certificate, a lapel pin set for the Soldier and spouse, and a Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen flag.

In January, I traveled to Central Command and met with Soldiers from Army Reserve units who are deployed to Kuwait, Afghanistan, Iraq, Qatar and Bahrain. These remarkable men and women are tough, resilient and disciplined warriors. They are dedicated to accomplishing the missions they were called to perform. Despite the strain and danger of demanding operations, enemies, long hours, and the unforgiving environment, they told me time after time that they are proud to serve our country. They are truly the American heroes of our generation. My greatest ambition is to ensure that the Army Reserve continues to attract and retain Americans of this high caliber.

"Why change? It's simple. We have to change because the conditions of warfare and how we approach it have changed."

As I talked with our deployed Soldiers, I heard comments about mobilization, extensions, equipment, pay, cross leveling between units, re-enlistment bonuses, and family support — all valid and important issues that are being addressed. As I listened, I noted that each of these falls into one of the following areas: organizing, manning, training, equipping, mobilizing, and resourcing, which are Title 10 U.S. Code responsibilities assigned to the Chief, Army Reserve. Over the past three years, I have focused my efforts on changing these areas to accommodate the new realities of warfighting in the 21st Century and how we go to war. In some areas we are modifying what exists, such as the command and control of Army Reserve units. In other areas, we are starting fresh, such as the Federal Reserve Restructuring Initiative we implemented in 2003.

Why change? It's simple. We have to change because the conditions of warfare and how we approach it have changed. We are fighting in a global war, rather than in a theater

of operations. We are fighting on an asymmetrical battlefield, rather than on a linear battlefield. We are fighting a continuous, protracted war, rather than a war with a discrete start and finish, such as the first Gulf War, and operations by Army units are the norm, not the exception. We are deploying parts of units, rather than whole units. Mobilizing the Reserve Components is no longer the exception, but the norm. Our Army is rapidly transforming to meet these new conditions. To remain relevant, the Army Reserve must also seek change — deep, lasting, and profound change.

I shared with our deployed Soldiers that Army Reserve leaders have been working diligently to implement new strategies in organizing, manning, training, mobilizing and equipping that lay the foundation for change that will lead to several outcomes:

- change that leads to resolving their concerns sooner rather than later;
- change that improves our ability to provide trained units and qualified Soldiers to the Global War on Terror; and
- change that prepares our force for future conflicts in which we will inevitably be called to serve.

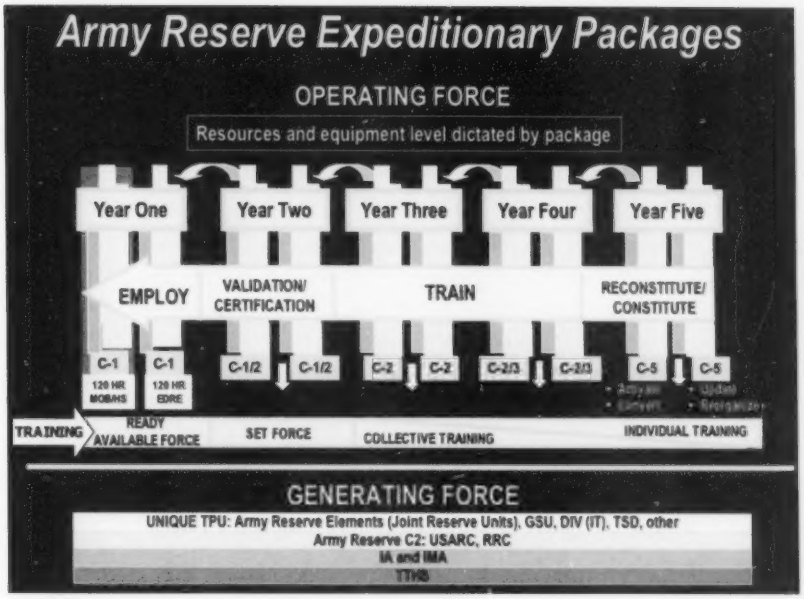
We are using the energy and urgency of Army transformation and the demands of the Global War on Terror to *change* the Army Reserve. We are overhauling our organization from a technically focused, force-in-reserve to a learning organization that provides trained, ready, "inactive duty" Soldiers poised and available for active service, ready as if they knew the hour and day they will be called. To make these changes happen, the Army Reserve is working closely with Forces Command (FORSCOM) and the Department of the Army staff to gain the support, resources, and authority that will help us change the Army Reserve. I'd like to review some of our strategies here.

"While changes to your position, unit, or training location may occur, you will always have a place in the Army Reserve as long as you want to serve and you meet Army standards."

Since America was attacked on September 11, 2001, the Army Reserve has mobilized more than 126,000 (as of Jan. 26, 2005) Army Reserve Soldiers for the Global War. Never in the history of our 96-year old organization has this country depended on the Army Reserve more than they do today. Yet, the experience of the last three years shows the Army Reserve must re-structure to be the agile, adaptive, and rotationally-based force that the Army and Joint Forces need.

To do this, we are changing, or optimizing, our force from one that supported a Cold War Army to one that is integral to the Army's future force. Starting with the structure of our force, we are first converting or eliminating units that are less relevant and too costly to modernize. As we make these changes we will maintain our current end-strength. While the Army Reserve will remain the same size in number of Soldiers, the composition of our force will change dramatically. Like all change, this force optimization will undoubtedly cause some turbulence in our ranks for a couple of years. But be assured, we need every Army Reserve Soldier who is currently in the ranks to re-enlist and stay with us. While changes to your position, unit, or training location may occur, you will always have a place in the Army Reserve as long as you want to serve and you meet Army standards.

To sustain the numbers of Army Reserve units and Soldiers needed to meet the continuing requirements of the Global War on Terror, we are implementing the Army Reserve Expeditionary Force (AREF) (see Figure 1), a dynamic new readiness, training, equipping and resourcing strategy that revolutionizes our force so that we can better mobilize, train and equip Army Reserve units for the fight. Through the use of a five-year rotation cycle, AREF offers increased predictability to our Soldiers, their families and employers.



(Figure 1) AREF offers increased predictability to Soldiers, their families and employers through the use of a five-year rotation cycle.

With this concept, the majority of Army Reserve units are assigned to one of ten Army Reserve Expeditionary Packages (AREP)(See Figure 1). While units in Year One (left side of Figure 1) are prepared, trained and equipped to mobilize and deploy wherever and whenever needed, units in Year Five (right side of chart), on the other end of the cycle, are reconstituting after returning from a deployment. Under AREF, resources, such as equipment, are aligned according to where units are in the rotation cycle.

In conjunction with the new AREF strategy, the Army Reserve is also implementing a new equipping strategy that is synchronized with the AREF. As units progress through each year of the five-year cycle, their state of readiness increases. Units in Year One, those ready to deploy, are at the highest level of readiness. Units in Year Five, those reconstituting from a deployment, are at the lowest level. In Year Two, the year prior to deployment, units receive full complements of modernized equipment compatible with AC equipment. This influx of equipment allows Army Reserve units to train up on their go-to-war systems prior to mobilization and deployment. This way, we locate the equipment where it is needed the most — going with the units heading for deployment.

"In this war, there are no secure rear areas. Our Soldiers must be Warriors always and must train that way!"

The deployed Soldiers with whom I met in the desert reinforced the value of our Army Reserve training philosophy — that every Soldier we deploy must be battle-ready. In this war, there are no secure rear areas. Our Soldiers must be Warriors always and must train that way! Tough physical training, frequent qualification on personal and crew served weapons, and constant battle drills hone the skills our Soldiers require to accomplish these difficult missions and return home safely to their families and employers. Training is the "sine qua non," or essential element, of a ready force.

"We in the Army Reserve honor the lives of our fallen Soldiers by remaining strong and focused on mobilization, readiness, training and deployment, and on families and employers."

The Army Reserve's "Command Training Guidance" in 2005 focuses commanders on preparing their Soldiers for war, rather than training only on their technical specialties. We will test proficiency with semi-annual weapons qualification, annual Warrior Task Training (WTT), semi-annual physical fitness tests, nuclear, chemical and biological proficiency, and battle drill programs. Mobilization is no longer an unexpected event, so we are striving to reduce post-mobilization training to less than a month and focusing it on critical collective unit tasks, theater-specific training, mission rehearsals, and validation.

During 2004, the Army Reserve pursued many changes to regulations, policies and, in some cases, statutes to meet the human needs of our force in the 21st Century. To that end, the Army Reserve is working with the Department of the Army staff to update antiquated policies on: Selective Reserve Incentive Program; new authorities for officer and enlisted incentives; special pays; Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) enlistment and reenlistment bonuses; and, assignments and attachments of Army Reserve Soldiers. The Army Reserve is striving to obtain much stronger and vastly improved authorities and bonuses for its Soldiers, equitable with those the Active Component currently possesses.

To recognize and express appreciation to Army Reserve Soldiers who have served in Operation Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom, the Army Reserve initiated the "Army Reserve Warrior-Citizen Award Program." Through this program, we will convey in a small way our Nation's gratitude for our Soldier's selfless service and sacrifice to the Global War on Terror. Within 90 days of demobilization, unit commanders will conduct a formal "welcome home" ceremony for returning Soldiers and their families. Commanders and Command Sergeants Major will present Soldiers with an encased American flag, specially-designed commemorative coins, a lapel pin set for the Soldier and spouse, and a "Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen" flag. The ceremonies will be open to families, employers, co-workers, community leaders, civic organizations, elected officials and the media.

We in the Army Reserve honor the lives of our fallen Soldiers by remaining strong and focused on mobilization, readiness, training and deployment, and on families and employers. The changes I have described are far-reaching and even startling to some. But they are necessary to ensure that the U.S. Army Reserve is capable of continuing to fulfill its mission as mandated by Congress and the American people.

Our responsibilities under Title 10 U.S. Code have not changed, but the world has changed and the Army we support is transforming rapidly. We cannot afford to delay — our Soldiers and the American people deserve better. As an institution, the Army Reserve must have the courage to change.

However, regardless of structure, size and mission responsibilities, the Army Reserve is part of the Army serving a nation at war. And the success of the Army Reserve rests, always, upon our Soldiers, employees, their families, and employers. They are the heart, soul, conscience, and foundation of our institution.

ARMY RESERVE CHIEF HEARS FROM SOLDIERS IN KUWAIT

By SPC Curt Cashour
Combined Forces Land Component Command
Public Affairs

CAMP DOHA, Kuwait — Army Reserve Chief LTG James Helmly visited Camp Doha, Kuwait, Jan. 17, 2004 to hold a town-hall style meeting with troops from several Reserve units deployed to the region.

The meeting, which lasted a little over an hour, was the first of several town-hall gatherings Helmly scheduled to conduct to address Army Reserve-related concerns during his nine-day tour of U.S. camps in the Central Command theater.

Helmly spoke for about 30 minutes before a crowd of more than 300 Reserve Soldiers, before taking questions from the troops.

"I work for you," Helmly said as he began to address the Soldiers packed in the camp's deployment/redeployment briefing room. He then thanked Soldiers for their service, urged them to apply the "Warrior Ethos" to their everyday activities and acknowledged some of the challenges facing the Army Reserve.

In his plain-spoken, straight-forward style, Helmly acknowledged that Reserve Soldiers have endured multiple problems to include payment glitches as well as equipment and manpower issues, and assured the troops that he and other Army officials are working as hard as they can to remedy these issues.

Helmly was just as honest with the troops when fielding their questions. On the subject of the type of operational tempo Reserve Soldiers can expect in the future, Helmly said he could make no guarantees.

When asked about possible downsizing of the force by CPT Mike Walker of the 146th Quartermaster Company from Fort Totten, N.Y., Helmly admitted that some Reserve slots will be eliminated in the future, but Reserve end strength, which hovers around 200,000, will not be affected.

Eliminating slots in certain areas will enable Reserve officials to bring understaffed units to at least 90 percent of their capacity, Helmly said. He emphasized that he's made it clear to commanders that there will always be spaces available in the Reserve for willing Soldiers, as long as they meet Army standards.

PHOTO: SPC CURT CASHOUR

LTG James Helmly addresses troops during a town-hall-style meeting at Camp Doha, Kuwait. Helmly was on a nine-day tour of U.S. military camps in the Central Command Theater to discuss issues with Army Reserve Soldiers.

PHOTO: U.S. ARMY PHOTO

An Army Reserve Soldier with the 220th MP Brigade undergoes NBC mask training at Aberdeen Proving Ground prior to deployment to Kuwait.

PHASED MOBILIZATION READIES UNIT FOR WAR

By SGT Brian Raley
Public Affairs Office
90th Regional Readiness Command

The terrorist acts against the United States on Sept. 11, 2001 led to a more extensive use of the Army Reserve Soldiers than ever before. The first unit of the 90th Regional Readiness Command was mobilized 17 days after the attack and was the first of 455 mobilization actions affecting more than 11,100 Soldiers to date. More alerts and mobilizations are still to come.

Some mobilizations have led to under-strength units having to use different methods to fill their vacancies. The most common method to fill the vacancies has been by "cross leveling." This is the taking of Soldiers with the correct rank and military occupational specialty (MOS) from a unit not scheduled for mobilization and assigning them to fill the roster vacancies of the mobilizing unit.

Two quartermaster units with mobilization dates were immediately recognized as posing a potential personnel shortage by COL Randy Erwin, deputy chief of staff, operations for the 90th RRC and his staff. The 340th Quartermaster Company, San Antonio, Texas, and the 263rd Quartermaster Company from El Paso, Texas, were laundry and bath units and the problem was a lack of trained manpower.

Erwin said that the 90th had three laundry and bath units with one, the 974th Quartermaster Company from Amarillo, Texas, already mobilized. The 340th, alerted for mobilization first, filled its personnel requirement by having Soldiers cross leveled from the 263rd. It was now classified as a "fixed" unit ready for mobilization.

The 263rd, alerted four months after the 340th, had lost the majority of its trained Soldiers through cross leveling to help fill the 974th vacancies before it left and, also, to help fix the 340th. It was now classified as a "broken" unit with only 21 MOS qualified Soldiers remaining of the 123 required.

"The challenge then became finding a source of deployable Soldiers who met the 92S reclassification criteria for cross leveling into the 263rd and, subsequently, completing MOS training."

"It was apparent from the status of the two units that, in order to prevent mission failure for the 263rd mobilization, two actions were necessary," Erwin said.

"First, the 340th and the 263rd mobilization dates need to be reversed, and, second, a phased mobilization was necessary for the 263rd in order to identify Soldiers for cross leveling. It would also indicate required MOS training, improve the unit leadership and help conduct platoon level collective training."

The U.S. Army Reserve Command operations section was able to get the mobilization report dates reversed, but a quick review of the 90th RRC and other Army Reserve commands indicated that there were no 92S (laundry and bath specialist) Soldiers available to cross level to fill the 263rd vacancies.

"The challenge then became finding a source of deployable Soldiers who met the 92S reclassification criteria for cross leveling into the 263rd and, subsequently, completing MOS training," Erwin said.

PHOTO: TRAVIS EDWARDS

SGT Victor Polanco, SSG Carmen Roman, SFC Omar Rivera, left to right, laundry and textile specialists from the 597th Quartermaster Company, U.S. Army Reserve, practice identifying key and essential components of the upgraded Laundry and Dry-Cleaning System (LADS) during refresher training at Fort Lee, Va.

A decision was made that, rather than take Soldiers from several units, it would be more effective to look at taking Soldiers from a unit which was no longer needed by the Army and was scheduled for inactivation. Although there would be a requirement for MOS training and reclassification, the Soldiers would have already trained together and have established leadership at the platoon and company levels.

"The unit identified by the 90th's Force Development was the 850th Service Company from Laredo, Texas which was scheduled for inactivation in 2006. It was a strong unit with good strength and excellent leadership," said Erwin.

The decision was made to have a town hall meeting and explain to the Soldiers of the 850th the personnel shortages for the 263rd and request their cooperation. A further decision had already been made that, because of the unit strength in Laredo, a unit would have to be assigned as a backfill upon the inactivation of the 850th. The immediate need for Soldiers for the 263rd and a future need for a backfill in Laredo helped make an offer available to present to the 850th Soldiers.

BG Philip Hanrahan, commander of the 90th Regional Readiness Group from San Antonio, Texas, and 90th RRG CSM Eddie Coleman accompanied Erwin to a town hall meeting in Laredo with the 850th Soldiers and their families.

The proposal was explained in detail, covering the cross leveling and training requirements of the 850th Soldiers into the 263rd. The proposal also included the continuation of service together upon their return as a detachment of the 340th Quartermaster Company. The proposal was enthusiastically received and more than 70 of the 850th Soldiers were identified as meeting the criteria for reclassification as 92S. Several more volunteered and had to retake their ASVAB to improve the general maintenance score to meet MOS requirements.

Phased mobilization of the groups would require two training periods for the first phase. The first period of training for the initial phase would consist of 45 Soldiers and seven company leadership Soldiers to attend 92S training. The second group would consist of 45 more Soldiers. Leadership and mission familiarization classes were to be taught concurrently with the MOS training. The 92S training is 28 days long, consisting of two 14-day phases. Phase I of the first class began on Aug. 14 and finished on Aug 27. Phase II of the class ran from Aug. 28 to Sept. 10. The second class began on Aug. 28 and finished its two phases on Sept. 24.

The Soldiers completing their 92S training in the first group would comprise the nucleus of the 263rd. The 21 Soldiers of the second group of the 263rd would be mobilized separately. They would be consolidated upon the completion of training of the former 850th Soldiers.

The training site selected was Fort Bliss, Texas, near the Army Reserve center in El Paso that housed the 263rd. Its equipment, also located at Fort Bliss, was identified for the 92S MOS training. The instructors were from the 95th Division and their instructors also worked in phases to cover all the training periods required.

Seventy-eight Soldiers from the 850th were cross leveled into the 263rd on July 12 and were immediately scheduled for the phased mobilization training. Additional Soldiers were identified for cross leveling and were available for phased mobilization upon completion of their second class.

Innovative thinking by the 90th staff and enthusiastic support and acceptance by the 850th's Soldiers of a method to stay together made the phased mobilization a success. Cooperation by the operations, personnel, force development, training and logistics sections of the 90th and support by the U.S. Army Reserve Command training played major roles in the "fixing" of a "broken" unit and assured it would be ready for mobilization.

Erwin gave credit to all involved, but said the key to the entire phased mobilization of the 263rd was the town hall meeting with the 850th Soldiers.

"This meeting set the tone and I think it was the reason for success," he said. ARM

WELL-BEING/ FAMILY READINESS

By taking care of the Soldier, the Soldier takes care of America

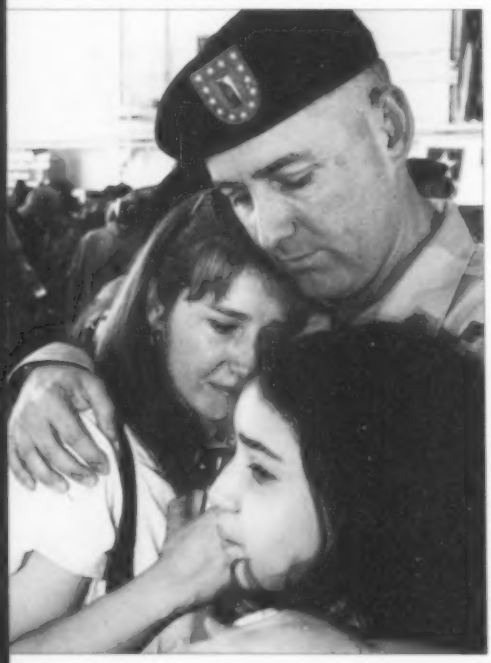


PHOTO: AIRMAN 1ST CLASS DANIEL DECOOK

Army Reserve 2LT Johnathan Sowell, 257th Transportation Company, hugs his wife and daughter after returning home from an 18 month deployment in Kuwait and Iraq. Recent initiatives to support families include reunion programs to support Soldiers and families in the post-deployment period.

WINNING THE FIGHT BEFORE IT'S FOUGHT: "WELL-BEING" OF THE AMERICAN SOLDIER

By MAJ Ted Hart
Well-Being Office
U.S. Army Reserve

In an on going effort to better support Soldiers and their families, the Army Reserve has promulgated an update to the Rear Detachment Operational guidance and procedures. This communication provides refined guidance for all operational areas necessary to sustain the Soldier, their families, civilian employer relationships and their unit.

In July 2004, The Army Reserve G-1 implemented and sponsored an excellent training program for Rear Detachment Operations (RDO). In calendar year 2004 over 400 RDO personnel were trained on deployment, redeployment, family support, reunion, information referral, TRICARE/Dental, role of the chaplain, benefits, and other important areas.

The Rear Detachment Commander (RDC) assumes the house-keeping duties of the unit commander and maintains regular contact with the commander at the deployment site. He or she is responsible for overall unit sustainment to include personnel actions for stay-behind Soldiers, logistics and equipment maintenance of the unit. The RDC is also the prime military family liaison and civilian employer support conduit. Commanders should use careful consideration in making the RDC selection.

Rear Detachment Operations is an initiative of the Army Well-Being program. In the Army Reserve, the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, G-1, has functional staff and execution responsibility for successful implementation of this program Army Reserve wide.

The intended end-state of RDO and family readiness is to develop and sustain Soldiers and have self reliant families that understand and use Army and volunteer support programs during times of separation.

Communication is the cornerstone in allaying some of the stress associated with a deployment, especially when the unit is involved in a mobilization.

Since taking over management of the Army Reserve RDO program in early May 2004, the Well-Being Division has successfully lobbied for Army Reserve specific RDO training at two Army Centers of Excellence (ACE) RDO Curriculum at Fort Hood, Texas and Fort Bragg, N.C. Coordination for course instructors and subject matter experts will take place through the Senior Army Reserve Advisors at the training sites. This training will focus on sustaining Army Reserve combat power forward as well as promote self reliant families and Soldiers at home station.

Although many of the RDCs have been formally trained, the Army Reserve is listening for better ways to assist them with this critically important mission. Communication is the cornerstone in allaying some of the stress associated with a deployment, especially when the unit is involved in a mobilization.

Lessons learned during the first Gulf War and subsequent operations on how to support Soldiers and their families while sustaining a viable rear area have resulted in a wider range of options.

Recent initiatives to support families include:

- Toll-free information lines.
- Partnerships with organizations such as the Armed Forces YMCA, Boys and Girls Clubs, and 4-H Clubs to provide additional youth activities and after-school care.
- Increased after-hours child care available at some installations.
- Family readiness materials posted on various Department and Service web sites.
- Additional Family Assistance Centers set up in communities dealing with high levels of deployment.
- Improved information and assistance for Army Reserve families transitioning to TRICARE.
- Increased training and guidance for rear detachment personnel.
- Increased interaction with nearby civilian community organizations, including schools.
- Improved return and reunion programs to support Soldiers and families in the post-deployment period.

Family Readiness and Employer Support volunteer professionals have been stretched thin over the past two years as they have had to juggle pre-deployment, ongoing deployment, and return and reunion support, often simultaneously. Military community volunteers are the front line troops in the mission to ensure family readiness, thereby necessitating the need for the best RDC possible.

An RDC must know what resource agencies are available in the community and should visit them prior to deployment to ensure there is a good understanding of their capabilities. The RDC must also understand how to use his military support chain for unit sustainment, and must be masterful at strategically bringing all resources together to support the RDO. This design will vary according to unit and geographical location.

Military community volunteers are the front line troops in the mission to ensure family readiness thereby necessitating the need for the best RDC possible.

RDCs are the commander's unit sustainment overseer, information connection to the families, employers and the first line of assistance in dealing with the military chain of command and in facilitating communication with the Soldier.

THE REST AND RECUPERATION LEAVE PROGRAM ENHANCES QUALITY OF LIFE AND WELL-BEING FOR PARTICIPANTS

By Jose Mojica, Karmin Jenkins
and MAJ Karen A. Cottone
Well-Being Office
U.S. Army Reserve

The United States Central Command (CENTCOM) initiated the Rest and Recuperation (R&R) Leave Program on Sep. 25, 2003 for all service members, Active or Reserve, and Department of Defense (DoD) civilian employees assigned to a 12-month tour of duty within the USCENTCOM area of operations in support of the Global War on Terrorism. The R&R program provides the opportunity for service members and DoD civilians serving in a combat theater to take up to 15 days of leave during their deployment. R&R provides respite from the stresses associated with the combat mission and allows participants to focus on family and friends when they return home. The feedback received about the R&R program from participants indicates that the program is beneficial and appreciated.

All service members and DoD civilians who meet the following conditions are eligible to participate in the R&R program:

- Assigned to a 12-month tour of duty in the Central Command area. Army Reserve Soldiers must be on a 1-year mobilization and serve at least 270 days of continuous duty within theater. No one component has priority over another component.
- Serving in an area specifically designated by DoD as an authorized Imminent Danger and Hazardous Duty Pay.
- Their commander determined they are eligible. The commander determines priority for personnel who are eligible for R&R leave based on the aforementioned criteria, as well as operational, safety, and security requirements. Further, no more than 10 percent of the force within theater can be on leave at one time.

Eligible service members and DoD civilians who participate in R&R will have the leave taken charged against their ordinary leave account. However, the Government pays for transportation to and from the leave destination.

R&R leave periods are limited to one per a 12-month period for service members who are deployed in a combat theater. Leave does not start until after arrival at the leave destination. Leave ends the day before travel begins to return to the theater of operations. During travel, all service members must wear either their Desert Battle Dress or Desert Camouflage Uniform. Alcohol consumption is prohibited while wearing the above mentioned uniforms.

Leave participants traveling under the CENTCOM R&R Leave Program receive their tickets at the Kuwait gateway, prior to departing the CENTCOM Area of Operations for travel within the United States, its territories, and commonwealths, or to other leave destination countries. The Government pays for the tickets. Participants who traveled during the period Sep. 1 through Dec. 18, 2003, before fully funded travel was authorized, and those who traveled after the authorization date but before official implementation of the onward travel program (Dec.19–31, 2003) will be reimbursed for their airline tickets. Retroactive reimbursement is not authorized for DoD civilians. Instructions for submitting claims are at the following web address: **http://www.armyg1.army.mil/WellBeing/RRLeave/Retro_Reimb.htm**

The R&R program provides the opportunity for service members and DoD civilians serving in a combat theater to take up to 15 days of leave during their deployment.

While on R&R leave, should a personal or family illness or other personal emergency occur, the service member should call the contact number listed on the leave form to report the situation. For family counseling, call Military One Source at 1-800-342-9647. For emergencies that may delay the Soldier's return to the gateway airport, contact the Rear Detachment Commander at the number listed on the leave form. For weather or airport delays, call the Airport Personnel Assistance Point at the following toll-free numbers:

ATLANTA: 1-800-276-5809
DALLAS-FT. WORTH: 1-800-770-5580

The R&R Leave Program has proven to be an overwhelming success since its inception. As of Jan. 4, 2005, more than 21, 697 Army Reserve Soldiers have participated. Total service members and civilians who have participated exceed 151,000. This program has enhanced the quality of life and well-being of those brave men and woman who are fighting the Global War on Terrorism.

DUO COLLECTS CAMERAS FOR TROOPS' FAMILIES

By SFC Doug Sample
American Forces Information Service

WASHINGTON — Jennifer Petersen of Ladera Ranch, Calif., made a New Year's resolution to help make the world a better place for her 18-month-old daughter, Kayla.

And she is hoping to fulfill that resolution by helping the families of service members who, she said, are "not only protecting our country, but protecting our world."

By the end of February, Petersen, 28, hopes to collect at least 10,000 digital cameras to give to families of deployed service members so they can share photos with loved ones serving abroad in the war on terrorism.

Operation Photo is an effort Peterson co-founded with Mitch Goldstone of Irvine, Calif., a close friend and owner of a local online photo service where she once worked. Goldstone said the cameras will be distributed to families through the military support organization Operation Homefront, a San Diego-based nonprofit group that aids families of deployed and non-deployed service members.

Goldstone said he plans to send an announcement to customers of his business, asking them to donate their used digital cameras. He also is soliciting businesses to donate. As a further incentive to get people to donate, Goldstone said, he is offering a $25 online gift certificate for developing services at his company.

"You hear the stories about servicemembers overseas who have never seen their children — their wives gave birth after they deployed," Petersen said. "So I was thinking of a way they could still watch their kids grow up, and digital cameras, God bless them, are the way."

She noted that many people have digital cameras they are not using. "Rather than sitting and collecting dust, they may as well go to a family that could use them to share memories of their loved ones," she said.

"Being away without my daughter would kill me," she admitted. "I can't imagine the Soldiers who are away from their families for weeks, months, a year. I don't know how they do it; they are much stronger people than I am."

Petersen, a professional wedding photographer, said she knew Goldstone, a community activist, would be eager to help. He had shown his patriotism in the past.

Shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Goldstone co-founded "Economic Patriotism in Irvine and Coast to Coast," an effort he said organized 5,000 tourists to travel by airline to New York City to help stimulate commerce for the city and to prove it was safe to fly.

"I'd love nothing more than our troops abroad to be able to hold pictures of their families. That is such a powerful, motivating factor for boosting morale."

Goldstone said he was willing to help Petersen in her effort because he's been in the photo business for some time and understands "the impact, and how important a single photographic print is."

"They've been overseas for a long time now, and nothing would please me more than to share the power of a photograph with them," he said. "I'd love nothing more than our troops abroad to be able to hold pictures of their families. That is such a powerful, motivating factor for boosting morale." ARM

PHOTO: COURTESY

Jennifer Petersen of Ladera Ranch, Calif., shown with her daughter, Kayla, hopes to collect 10,000 digital cameras by February for families of deployed service members.

Update on OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

PHOTO: U.S. ARMY PHOTO

SSG Thomas Zawisza, left and SSG David Dehoyos, crew chiefs with C Co. 1/159th Aviation Regiment, perform a critical mission aboard their UH-60 Blackhawk — hauling ballots from Kurdish sites to Mosul to support the Iraqi elections.

ARMY RESERVE AVIATION UNITS MOBILIZED TO SUPPORT OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

By Paul Adams
Army Reserve Public Affairs

The Army Reserve will have committed nearly 80 percent of its aviation assets to the war fight with the arrival of its only two UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter companies and one AH-64 Apache Battalion in the Iraqi Theater of Operations. The three units, D Co., 158th Aviation Regiment, C Co., 159th Aviation Regiment, both Blackhawk units, and the 8th Battalion, 229th Aviation Regiment arrived in Iraq by late 2004.

"Aviation is an absolutely essential piece in the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) and the Army Reserve plays an essential part in this," said COL Tom Caples, commander of the 244th Aviation Brigade, in Fort Sheridan, Ill.

The 8th/229th is supporting the New York Army National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division. They will be providing close combat attack operations, along with main supply route and infrastructure security and reconnaissance. It is the first Army Reserve Apache unit to be deployed to this theater and the last Flying Tiger unit in the Army.

Department of the Army re-missioned both Blackhawk units to support the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) after nearly a year of CONUS-based support at Fort Hood, Texas and Fort Sill, Okla. for the D/158th and Fort Bragg, N.C. for C/159th. Following their expected year in theater, they will have been mobilized for the entire two year period.

Commanded by LTC Roy Hall, the 8th/229th consists of approximately 350 Soldiers — aviators, crew chiefs, maintenance and administrative personnel assigned to five companies. After getting the call for duty, Hall and his units moved from their home station, Fort Knox, Ky. and reported to Fort Dix, N.J. in June 2004 for pre-deployment training. "This consisted of all the standard Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP) for the entire unit to ensure all Soldiers were qualified to deploy. After the mandatory training was complete the unit conducted limited flight training to prepare aircrews for deployment." Hall said.

Following SRP, the unit relocated aircrews, aircraft maintenance and support personnel to Fort Drum, N.Y. to conduct crew gunnery training. Twenty-four crews were qualified through a graded live fire exercise. The aircrews engaged simulated and pop-up targets to become gunnery qualified. "Crew gunnery qualification is an important step in qualifying aircrews for combat operations and in developing the aircrew coordination required when supporting ground forces in contact," Hall added. For the Blackhawk units mobilization has come quickly in their short history. Both units were stood up in early 2002 and have already spent a year on active duty supporting stateside missions.

CPT Rex Eiserer's unit, D/158th, from Victorville, Calif., spent the majority of 2004 supporting the Presidential mission at Crawford, Texas while based at Fort Hood, Texas. Toward the end of the year, the unit re-located to Fort Sill, Okla., for final OCONUS training and validation before landing in Kuwait in November 2004.

By the end of December 2004, according to Eiserer, D/158th was rounding out a UH-60 battalion in 1st Cav and fully incorporated in the Baghdad area of operations. "The majority of our missions are to move personnel and equipment in the Baghdad AO by air. By moving pax (passengers) and equipment by air, we greatly reduce the improvised explosive devices (IED) threat to our forces, keeping our troops safe and ready to fight," Eiserer said.

Utility aviation is fundamental in staying ahead of the insurgent threat, and Eiserer believes they are going to see a lot more of it utilized in theater.

Since the 1st Cav is redeploying and going home having served their one year boots on the ground, D/158th is not going with them but are relocating in Iraq to support other operations. "Since we are a stand alone UH-60 Company, we are able to round out or assist any Task Force, Brigade, or Battalion, that needs additional aviation support," Eiserer said. "From standard personnel movements for Freedom Rest Flights (R&R) to rapid night insertions of Marine fire teams, we support the battlefield."

"Aviation is an absolutely essential piece in the Global War on Terrorism and the Army Reserve plays an essential part in this."

C/159th, commanded by MAJ James Fitzgerald, from Clearwater, Fla., performed their certification at Fort Bragg, N.C. before going overseas where they were assigned to the 18th Airborne Corps command aviation brigade.

The unit participated in a variety of missions to include air movement, air assault, and cargo transportation. They were tasked to transport the area infantry Quick Reaction Force (QRF) during the January 30th elections. C/159th also completed direct action air assaults under night vision goggles against insurgent targets.

"Some of these Soldiers have trained for their entire careers. This is an opportunity to put forth those skills they have learned," Caples said.

FATHER, NURSERY, SHIPPING COMPANY TEAM UP TO DONATE CHRISTMAS TREES TO TROOPS, FACILITIES IN IRAQ

By CPT Marie Saunders
301st Area Support Group

CAMP ANACONDA, Iraq — A gift of 75 Christmas trees wrapped in red, white and blue ribbon and U.S. Flags were flown in from East Rockaway, N.Y., bound for the Soldiers of Camp Anaconda, Iraq.

James Adelis, Sr., wanted his son, PFC James Adelis of the 369th Transportation Company (Palletized Load System) stationed at Camp Anaconda, to have a real Christmas tree for the holidays.

"It snowballed!" said the younger Adelis. His father took the idea to The Dees' Nursery and Florist, Inc. in Oceanside, N.Y. where the idea spawned a spirited donation of 75 live Christmas trees for the troops.

"The nursery had wanted to do something to help the Soldiers but didn't know what to do," PFC Adelis said. Then in walks Adelis Sr., and trees with all the trimmings were on their way to the desert.

The trees traveled in tall thin boxes and were bundled in netting to hold the branches securely down. Boxes of sets of lights and assorted ornaments arrived with the trees. The trees were shipped courtesy of DHL, a packing and shipping company who also donated its time, effort, trucks, helicopter and planes to ensure the tree's safe arrival.

The 77th Regional Readiness Command was contacted about the delivery and jumped in to help. They notified the recently arrived 301st Area Support Group, (the new 'Mayor's Office' at Camp Anaconda) and subordinate units of the 77th.

CSM Edward Ramsdell, 301st command sergeant major, arranged the delivery to the units.

"The priority was to get the trees to facilities Soldiers use most," Ramsdell said. "After we hit the common areas, we hit the units." The deliveries covered Army, Air Force and Marines.

On one cold, rainy evening, Adelis and his battle buddy SPC Patric Semoy personally delivered many of the trees to happy units. "They smell like home," said Adelis as he delivered the trees.

"The priority was to get the trees to facilities Soldiers use most. After we hit the common areas, we hit the units."

Soldiers, Marines and Airmen were happy to get the trees. SGT Chris Jenson, 852nd Rear Area Operation Center (RAOC), was glad to have the tree in the office. "It makes us think of Christmas," he said.

PHOTO: SPC KATE HOIT

Soldiers at Camp Anaconda, Iraq decorate the donated tree they received for Christmas.

Also enjoying the tree was MSG Richard Barreda, 852nd RAOC. "It is awesome to have a little bit of home in Iraq. We would not have had this if it weren't for New York," Barreda said referring to the 301st and the 77th RRC.

The dining facilities, theater, gym, new MWR building and offices, Anaconda chapel, Air Force theater, hospital, dental clinic, education center and post office were just a few places on Camp Anaconda and Balad Air Force Base where the trees were displayed for everyone to enjoy.

PHOTO: MSG JACK GORDON, PUBLIC AFFAIRS ACQUISITION TEAM, U.S. ARMY RESERVE COMMAND

Iraqis training with new equipment to better address situations in the correctional facilities.

ARMY RESERVE CIVIL AFFAIRS UNIT ASSISTS IN DEVELOPING IRAQ'S INFRASTRUCTURE

By MSG Jack Gordon
Public Affairs Acquisition Team
U.S. Army Reserve

MOSUL, Iraq — The actual force-on-force war here was brief, but achieving the goal of getting Iraq on its feet and standing tall in freedom is much more difficult. U.S. and Coalition Soldiers are now confronted with infrastructural systems that suffer from both damage during bombing campaigns and decades of neglect or underdevelopment. Toss in insurgent ambushes, car bombs and mortar attacks and you have a challenge.

This ancient city in the cradle of early civilization is attempting to find itself after the most dramatic change in recent memory — a post–Saddam Hussein Iraq — and assisting in the discovery and movement are Soldiers from the 416th Civil Affairs Battalion, Norristown, Pa.

The unit has been working with Iraqis in problem areas, including emergency civil response and correctional facilities. CPT Felix Acosta is the public safety team chief for the effort and he has made substantial progress in the province of Nineveh.

"We want to thank CPT Acosta and his team — we have worked hand-in-hand and our civil defense department is starting from a good point here in Mosul, especially with our fire and rescue teams." said BG Mohammed Mahoud, chief of civil defense, Nineveh Province. "In the past our system was not so good but now we have the best team in Nineveh."

"In the past our system was not so good but now we have the best team in Nineveh."

Mahoud was proud to display the recent acquisitions the department has made by working with Acosta's team to address shortfalls in its mission capability — a thoroughly renovated fire truck with hydraulic extension ladder, an emergency first aid vehicle and a heavily armored ordnance vehicle for bomb disposal duty.

"Our firehouse for training and fire truck are fixed up and working fine," Mahoud said, "and we have an EOD (Explosive-Ordnance-Disposal) truck. All this was made possible by the cooperation between CPT Acosta's team and our team. We are proud to work with him and we will continue working together."

"These are people who stayed on (in Iraq's civil service) after the end of the (Saddam) regime," said Acosta. They had no pay for months on end and there was no guarantee they'd keep their jobs, but they continued responding to domestic emergencies —they prevented looting — so the people of Nineveh Province respect them."

When Acosta and his Civil Affairs team first arrived here, they studied various aspects of the city to best determine how they could help.

"If you don't have a good relationship with the people, you don't know what their needs and priorities are, and you won't get much cooperation," Acosta said. "We're trying to achieve common goals here, which are public safety and the security of this area."

After the focus areas were jointly developed between Acosta and the chief representatives of Nineveh's agencies, the work began. Intentions were outlined, plans were made, equipment was acquired and training began.

MAJ Addal Mohammed Abdulala serves as the chief of the rescue team for Nineveh Province. "We had training with CPT Acosta and now we are ready to rescue anyone using the new tools," said Abdulala, "like people inside a building or from the crashes and accidents. This is the best work — to rescue people, and we thank CPT Acosta and his team."

"We had them do practical training on vehicle extrication," said Acosta, " cutting the vehicle and getting the victim out, so these guys are set. They're very proud of what they have here now." Acosta said that the new uniforms provided to the rescue and fire crews help identify them to the Iraqi people, and that such recognition serves to better raise awareness that Iraq is addressing civil services to respond to emergencies.

Statistically, according to Soldiers here, Mosul has a higher rate of IEDs (Improvised Explosive Device) than anywhere in Iraq. Perhaps it was this perception or fact that provided the team here with the benign looking truck that is carefully designed to remove bombs, rockets and other ordnance to safe areas. The teams heavily reinforced a large truck, building a thick steel blast container in the rear bed of the vehicle. The truck's exterior appearance mimics that of every other vehicle in Mosul's streets.

"They are targeted because of the work they do," Acosta noted. "They often respond to bomb situations in civilian vehicles and clothing to not draw attention. The ports cut into the walls are to return fire, not for windows or ventilation."

He said that "bad guys" will attempt to hijack a truck containing any type of explosives that they could turn against Coalition forces and of late, Iraqis who are enlisting in the ING (Iraqi National Guard) and IP (Iraqi Police) forces.

"It's strong enough to withstand an AK-47 round," said Acosta. "we tested it." The truck also carries an ample supply of sand bags to further contain an unexpected detonation of any ordnance within the truck's safe area.

"Before," said Taha Haji Taha, chief of Nineveh's EOD squad, "we would always have to call the American team, but now — since we got the bomb car — we can respond ourselves."

Acosta said the Iraqis he is working with are anxious to assume full responsibility for the operations, but are equally receptive to the assistance and training the U.S. Soldiers are able to provide. For instance, in unusual or more sophisticated bomb disposal situations, U.S. forces will closely monitor the proposed actions.

"It's the tools, training and the OJT (On the Job Training) they're getting — they're assuming the mission themselves," said Acosta. "I'm very proud of all we've been able to do here."

Another major focus in Nineveh Province is Iraq's incarceration system, and the Soldiers of the 214th Civil Affairs Battalion have worked closely with officials to train guards, and special response teams, and improve living conditions and alter past practices in inmate abuse.

PHOTO: SSG JACK GORDON, PUBLIC AFFAIRS ACQUISITION TEAM, U.S. ARMY RESERVE COMMAND

BG Mohammed Mahoud Ibrahim and CPT Felix Acosta prepare to review renovations at a correctional facility in Mosul, Iraq.

"I'm the instructional lead on the (CA) Public Safety Team," said SFC Ron Miko, of the 214th. "Basically, I take care of the training and day to day correction operations at local prisons in Nineveh Province."

Miko said the 214th has matched the civilian skill sets and military training of its Soldiers to fit with the programs the unit is conducting and supporting here.

"The skills we have on the public safety team are unequaled," he said. "We have great people who are very knowledgeable — our firefighter has 20 years of experience, and most of us have five to ten years of law enforcement experience in a civilian police force or in corrections."

PHOTO: MSG JACK GORDON, PUBLIC AFFAIRS ACQUISITION TEAM, U.S. ARMY RESERVE COMMAND

The Response Team in action drills.

Miko has been mobilized for almost two years, first on a tour in Bosnia and now in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom here. Before that, he was employed as a policeman on the Reading, Pa., police force. He said his employer has been supportive of his deployments.

His focus here has been training a disturbance response team to quell problems within the prison.

"We came in with a six-day training outline after we equipped them. On the second rotation, they took the lead and started training the next team. We watched them and made some comments but they'll soon be running them on their own. I believe they'll do very well," Miko said. His primary liaison is the captain of the Correctional Officer Academy, CPT Azhar Ibrahim.

"The civil affairs has made great things for us," Ibrahim said. "They bring us this equipment, and the very important thing is they teach us how to treat the prisoners with all human rights — not like before. That is very important." Human rights are indeed very important to Ibrahim, who said his father had been a political prisoner under Saddam, and was freed after the regime fell.

"When the people from outside come now to visit, they see how we treat the people in here — they see we respect them, and we respect their family when they visit, so they respect us," Ibrahim said. "Not like before."

These more educated guards are trained to communicate better with prisoners and if force becomes necessary then minimum force to achieve the objective should be the rule, not the exception.

"For the prisoner who does not obey the order, we will start negotiations. We will ask him to obey the order in the beginning, but if he refuses, our team will take him with as little force as necessary," Ibrahim said.

Apparently, the training made operations inside the prison better. According to Miko, the only two incidents of inmate disturbances were over before they reached critical mass after the newly trained and team equipped with uniforms, Plexiglas riot shields and batons were dispatched to the scene, and the prisoners retreated.

The system here may even pave the way as a model facility — Miko said the Iraqi Dept. of Justice deemed the facility and disturbance action plans the standard.

"CPT Acosta and his team have worked very hard for us," Ibrahim said. "Now it is our turn to get all this information and training out to the other places in Iraq. I hope to make them very proud of us. I thank everybody. They have worked from the heart with us. They have a place in our hearts. I will miss them too much."

Miko said that seeing the systems his unit has helped develop is pleasing and rewarding.

"As a law enforcement officer back home, it's great to come to another country and make such a difference," Miko said. "I'm glad I'm here — I don't like being away from my family but I enjoy my job — civil affairs is a great opportunity for a Soldier. My wife is irritable and my daughter is a little crabby about the whole thing, but they understand what I'm doing."

(Translations from Iraqi officials courtesy of the 214th Civil Affairs Battalion's native interpreter.)

TRANSPORTATION COMPANY'S TRUCKS KEEP HAULING

By MSG Jack Gordon
Public Affairs Acquisition Team
U.S. Army Reserve

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, BALAD, Iraq — Army Reserve Soldiers from the 630th Transportation Company from Washington, Pa. are here for the "long haul," so to speak. The unit's assigned mission is conducting convoys throughout Iraq, hauling all nine classes of items in the Army's inventory to FBOs (Forward Base Operation) in the theater.

As the insurgent threat is constantly mutating in size, strength and cunning, U.S. and Coalition convoys often bear the brunt of the enemy's ambush activity. The enemy here is by definition — "insurgent", but more commonly called by U.S. forces simply "bad guys." The bad guys are often making life miserable for troops by inflicting damage and casualties on convoy operations with IEDs (Improvised Explosive Device) and VBIEDs (Vehicle-born Improvised Explosive Device). Given the threat, all convoys are always escorted by force protection security vehicles.

"We've been pretty lucky so far," said SSG Nick Ellis. Ellis was cross-leveled to the 630th from another transportation company in the 99th Regional Readiness Command, the 298th TC from Franklin, Pa. Before he was mobilized, Ellis was a first year student in medical school pursuing a doctor of chiropractic path.

"We haven't had much trouble — we've been out of the danger areas," said Ellis. The 630th was hit, however, on a recent convoy — a Soldier sustained injuries from an IED but was treated within the theater and has returned to duty.

Ellis said the unit's current mission entails running convoys from here to a location about six over-the-road hours distant. It's a required overnight stay before returning, and for several reasons the convoys are now running at night.

Night missions also minimize the potential of heat casualties — the tractor-trailer rigs are not air conditioned and the Soldiers in the gun trucks are in open sun. The average daily temperature in Iraq now is about 120 degrees. Although the main roads in Iraq, now called MSRs (Major Supply Route) by the military are in decent shape, the convoy's route also takes it across some not so desirable pavement.

[Left] SSG Nick Ellis awaits the next convoy mission for the 630th Transportation Company.

(PHOTO: MSG JACK GORDON, U.S. ARMY RESERVE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE ACQUISITION TEAM)

"We're constantly watching for IEDs or any threat — you have to be vigilant all the time," said SSG Robert Mitchell, who serves as a gunner on the unit's security gun trucks. Mitchell was cross-leveled to the 630th from the 223rd Transportation Company in Norristown, Pa. As a civilian, he is a security guard with ABM Security in Sharon Hill, Pa.

"It's hard dealing with the heat, and the dusty and the bumpy ride," Mitchell said. "It bounces you around a lot in the turret. By the time we get there, my face is covered in mud, but you have to be vigilant. It's very tiring — it's mentally draining."

Mitchell is experienced on the gun trucks from many convoys, but does not allow complacency to set in.

"You can never be off-guard," he said. "You also have to let them (Iraqi civilian population) know you're watching them because if you look like you're slacking they'll take advantage of you. If you look like you're ready, they might not want to mess with you — but if you're reading a magazine, it could turn out to be a bad day for you."

Few if any Army Reserve units deployed with vehicles that were designed or prepared to protect Soldiers on convoys in an actual shooting war, since by doctrine, Army Reserve units such as the 630th were destined for duty in what were called secure rear areas. But, Iraq changed all that. The Army, however, is changing with it.

"We're constantly watching for IEDs or any threat — you have to be vigilant all the time."

"We have quarter-inch steel on the doors, sides and the fabricated turret — it's a makeshift hardening of the vehicles," said Mitchell. The 630th's gun trucks are modified five-ton cargo trucks. Aloft in the turret, Mitchell counts on the additional protection of his body armor. The front and rear vest plates are reputed to be capable of stopping a 7.62mm round — up to three direct hits. Some of the vests now have a collar and groin protector. Additional "sleeves" for the vests are also in the design and test phases.

"I feel pretty safe up there," said Mitchell. "It's better than nothing."

There are two sides to combat. Of course the first is self-preservation, but drawing a bead on another human being is fraught with moral dilemma as well.

"I would never feel good about shooting somebody," Mitchell said, "but I will do what I have to. I'll do what's necessary." Mitchell's religious convictions run deeper than survival, since he is a deacon in his church.

"I rely a lot on my faith in God to keep us safe," he said. "We haven't had any casualties so I thank God for that — I say a prayer before every convoy." Serving together now, many of the Soldiers assigned to the 630th are from distant units, but it hasn't diminished the team effort. Such variation in unit origin may well, in fact, have only served to strengthen the collective mission.

SGT Lisa Phillips was also reassigned to the 630th from the 223rd, and said she was happy to be with this "new" unit.

"The best part is that there are so many cross-levels here," Phillips said. "But we merged together really quickly — and now we're really close." Phillips alternates between driving or "manning" a 50-caliber machine gun on a 630th gun truck.

"That's what I'm the most proud of," Phillips said, "the fact that there is so much diversity. I would do anything for the Soldiers in this unit."

SGT Kat Rorah was cross-leveled to the 630th from the 463rd Engineer Company from Wheeling, W. Va. She likes convoys.

"I've only missed one," Rorah said. She drives the convoy's recovery vehicle. It serves as a tow truck if necessary, provides vehicle maintenance on the road, is responsible for the litter team if Soldiers are injured or wounded, and maintains communication with the convoy commander from the tail end of the vehicle string.

"I keep the (convoy) commander up front apprised of what's going on in the rear of the convoy," Rorah said. She said she loves to drive and that as long as everybody is still moving, the convoy will keep rolling.

"We've been lucky," said Rorah. "We always come back through that gate, and that's what it's all about, bringing everyone back safe."

[Bottom] SFC Class Don Whetzel is the truck master for the 630th — he is a veteran of Vietnam, Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF).

[Right] SPC Lisa Phillips is at the 50-Caliber Machine Gun of one of the 630th Transportation Company's Gun Trucks. The trucks provide force protection on convoys in Iraq. (PHOTO: MSG JACK GORDON, U.S. ARMY RESERVE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE ACQUISITION TEAM)

PHOTO: MSG JACK GORDON, PUBLIC AFFAIRS ACQUISITION TEAM, U.S. ARMY RESERVE COMMAND

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ARMY RESERVE FIRST RESPONDERS FORM RESCUE TEAM IN IRAQ

By Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — When Army SGT Joseph Taylor arrived on the scene of the Dec. 29, 2004 explosion in Baghdad, Iraq, chaos was the order of the day.

Insurgents had lured several Iraqi police to a home, then detonated powerful explosives. The homes of at least three families were destroyed, leaving nothing but piles of rubble. One house had "pancaked," a first-responder term to explain that the building's walls had collapsed and one floor had fallen on top of another like a stack of pancakes.

Despite the devastation, those families were fortunate Taylor was among the first U.S. servicemen on the scene. And several people are alive today because he was.

Taylor is second-in-command of a unique team of Army Reserve Soldiers with civilian experience in "heavy rescue" — saving people trapped in collapsed structures.

While other members of 91st Engineer Battalion, to which Taylor is attached, began securing a perimeter around the incident site, Taylor began assessing the wreckage, keeping a particular eye out for potential "voids," small open places where someone might have survived the building's collapse.

"I went directly over to the pile to try to figure out exactly what was going on, to try and figure out some numbers and get a good assessment of what was happening," Taylor said in a telephone interview with American Forces Press Service.

He alerted his battalion commander it would be best to call the as-yet-untested "Rescue 1" team, formed from members of the 458th Combat Engineer Battalion in the unit's predeployment phase at the behest of the 1st Cavalry Division, which is responsible for security operations in and around Baghdad.

Then Taylor got to work on the serious business of saving innocent lives. Over the next three hours — while the rest of the team of part-time rescuers was notified, assembled and deployed — Taylor pulled four people out of "the pile" alive.

When two of the team's three rescue companies arrived, they pulled out another — a 22-year-old woman. Taylor and the rest of the team also recovered several bodies from the rubble. In all, 29 people, many of them Iraqi policemen, died in the attack.

The Rescue 1 team came about after many hours of planning meetings at Fort McCoy, Wis., as the 458th, an Army Reserve unit from Johnstown, Pa., was preparing for its yearlong deployment to Iraq. A group of six individuals with extensive civilian experience in firefighting, emergency medicine and hazardous-materials handling planned the 90-member team, set training tasks, cobbled together equipment from several different sources, and manned the new organization with volunteers.

PHOTO: MAJ ADAM ROTH

Iraqis and U.S. Soldiers work to rescue people from the rubble left after an attack that leveled several houses in Baghdad, Iraq. Army Reserve SGT Greg Renko was a member of the team of U.S. rescuers who responded to the attack site and saved five people buried in the collapsed houses.

Many team members had little or no rescue experience before this mission. They trained extensively at Fort McCoy, then some more as the unit was processing through Camp Victory South, in Kuwait. Since they arrived in Iraq in February 2003, the team members have trained together at least once a month, explained Army SGT Greg Renko, a medic with the 458th and one of the team's original six "officers."

The team uses "firematic" terms, and many of the so-called officers here are actually Army enlisted men. What's important in this context is not their military ranks, but their rescue expertise gained through civilian experience. The team's commander is Army MAJ Adam Roth, battalion executive officer of the 458th. Taylor, also a medic with his unit, is the team's deputy commander.

Taylor said seeing the team save lives is an amazing experience for the six original officers. "It's almost like it's your own child," he said. "It's something you've created, you've helped it grow. And it's now mature enough to go out there and be able to do amazing things."

He said the Iraqis knew there were no U.S. casualties at the scene and were touched that these Soldiers were working so hard to save the lives of Iraqi civilians.

In Iraq, the team acts much like a volunteer fire department. Members each have their normal jobs, not necessarily together. Members' day-to-day duties include sweeping routes for roadside bombs, patrolling areas of Baghdad, and construction jobs. But when they're notified of an emergency, they meet up and head out as a team.

"At any point they can give us a call, and they bring us all back in, just like a civilian volunteer fire department," said Renko, who in his civilian life is a paramedic firefighter in Monroeville, Pa.

The explosion on the 29th was the first time they actually deployed to an incident, Renko said. But they'd had plenty of "false alarms" before then. "We've been called up numerous times where we'd have the vehicles ready to go," he said. "We'd be staged, and we'd get 'called down.' They didn't need us, or there'd be nobody entrapped."

Renko and Taylor said they received a grateful response from the Iraqi police, firefighters and civilians who were at the scene of the major explosion last month. "The civilians were outstandingly happy we were there. They came up hugging us, shaking our hands," Renko said. "The interpreter they had there, he kept telling us they were saying how happy they were that we were showing up to help them."

He said the Iraqis knew there were no U.S. casualties at the scene and were touched that these Soldiers were working so hard to save the lives of Iraqi civilians.

Being part of a rescue team in Iraq has unique challenges. Especially poignant is that the members are deployed far from their usual support networks and stress relievers. In the civilian world, veteran first responders devise ways to help them deal with the horror of seeing people injured and killed. In the aftermath of the recent explosion, the team pulled many bodies from the wrecked buildings, including several children.

Taylor explained that when he returns from an incident in his civilian job as a paramedic firefighter in Norfolk, Va., the first thing he does is to call his wife, Jennifer, and to talk to his young sons. Playing with "the boys" allows him to get past the strain of his job. In Iraq, that outlet is not available to him.

Added to the routine strain of a deployment and stressful missions, is that Jennifer has given birth to a third son since Taylor has been in Iraq. She is now caring for 9-month-old Noah, and Adam, 4, and Zachary, 3, at home by herself until Taylor's unit redeploys in the next month or so. And many other men in the unit are in similar situations.

"A lot of these rescuers, we've had children on this deployment.We weren't there for that. A lot of us don't know those children. I don't know my youngest," Taylor said. "It just makes it that much harder."

To help them cope, chaplains are available to the rescuers, and the more experienced members make themselves readily available to the others — just to talk or to refer them to other help, if that's what's needed.

And the Soldiers "do what Soldiers do best — you rely on each other," Taylor said. ARM

PHOTO: MAJ ADAM ROTH

Army SSG Magnifico uses a K-12 saw to cut rebar out of a hole so fellow rescuers SSG Zollinger and SGT Greg Renko could enter the hole to search a collapsed building for any trapped victims.

"Go For Broke" Soldiers Become U.S. Citizens

By Paul Adams
Army Reserve Public Affairs

FORT BLISS, Texas — For more than 100 Army Reserve Soldiers of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment, going to Iraq to fight the Global War on Terrorism has taken on new meaning — fighting as U.S. citizens.

In a December 2004 Naturalization Ceremony conducted by the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, 110 Army Reserve and 17 National Guard Soldiers took the oath of allegiance to become U.S. citizens. The ceremony took place at the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy at Fort Bliss, Texas.

With the other mobilized members of the 100th/442nd and 29th Brigade Combat Team, Hawaii Army National Guard, looking on, Soldiers filed one by one across the auditorium stage to receive their naturalization certificate from Raymond P. Adams, district director, El Paso District, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

"It is an honor and a privilege to bestow the ultimate honor, American Citizenship, on these Soldiers who fight so bravely and tirelessly to defend the rights and freedoms of the United States," Adams said.

The ceremony would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of SGT Daniel Perez, battalion legal NCO and CPT Paul Carlyle, the 100th's battalion adjutant. Perez did the research into expediting the process of administrative naturalization and coordinated with Immigration and Naturalization Services in order to get the process started. "The process included getting applications and important documentation together, conducting training classes and interviews and providing study guides to the Soldiers for the citizenship tests," said the Thomas M. Cooley Law School student.

Most of the Soldiers being naturalized were from American Samoa, while some were from Guam and Saipan. The 100th is based in those locations as well as Hawaii.

"These Soldiers are from American Samoa, and as such, are nationals of the United States," Adams said. "These are Soldiers, who are not yet citizens of the United States, who are willing to defend this country."

According to Adams, the Soldiers, as applicants for naturalization, are eligible under a very special section of the law. "The Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) provides for the naturalization of active duty service members of the U.S. Armed Forces who serve in active-duty status during periods of conflict as outlined in the INA or any additional period designated by the President in an executive order."

President Bush signed executive order 13269 on Jul 3, 2002. This executive order designated the War on Terrorism, which includes the conflict in Iraq, under this special section of law.

According to Adams since the signing of this executive order, more than 19,000 service members have applied for expedited naturalization and approximately 12,000 Soldiers have become citizens of the United States.

With the ceremony concluding, Perez paused to breathe a sigh of relief. His hard work had paid off and now he could look forward to going off to war with a 127 new citizen Soldiers. ARM

Soldiers of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry sing the "Go For Broke" Song during Naturalization ceremony for more than 100 unit members.

PHOTO: PAUL ADAMS

Historical Perspective: 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Past and Present

The 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry, is the only remaining Infantry unit in the Army Reserve force structure. Its headquarters is located at Fort Shafter, Hawaii, and its units are located in Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam and Saipan. Under the command and control of the 9th Regional Readiness Command, the 100th/442nd's wartime mission is to be one of the maneuver battalion's of the 29th Separate Infantry Brigade, Hawaii Army National Guard.

The patch worn by Soldiers of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry

It is important to recognize the contributions of the Japanese Americans who served in the U.S. Army's 100th Battalion and 442nd Combat Infantry group. History speaks for itself in documenting that none have shared their blood more valiantly for America than the Japanese Americans who served in these units while fighting enemy forces in Europe during World War II. The records of the 100th Battalion and 442nd Infantry are without equal.

Because young Japanese men of the second generation [Nisei] were often eager to fight against the Axis Powers, Japanese-American units were created in the Army. In order to eliminate the confusion that might arise in the Pacific, the nisei units were to be employed only in the Mediterranean and European theaters of operation. The 442nd Infantry Regiment was the largest Nisei unit. Fighting in Italy and southern France, the unit was known for its bravery and determination, as reflected by the unit motto, "Go for broke!"

The first all-Japanese American Nisei military unit was the 100th Battalion, which was the designation for the unit which was formed from the Japanese Americans who comprised a large part of the Hawaiian National Guard. These Nisei were sent to Camp McCoy, Wis. for combat training and later were moved to Camp Shelby, Miss. for additional training. They adopted the phrase "Remember Pearl Harbor" as their motto.

In 1943, the War Department in need of manpower reversed itself and sent recruiters to the relocation camps asking for volunteers to form a new Japanese American combat unit: the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Volunteers were also accepted from Hawaii where 12,500 men had volunteered. The Nisei volunteers were combined with Japanese Americans still in the military and were sent to Camp Shelby, Miss. for combat training.

At Camp Shelby, they were formed into the 442nd Infantry Regiment, consisting of three battalions plus support companies, the 522nd Artillery Battalion

and the 232nd Combat Engineers. The unit designation was the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and most of its officers were Caucasians. The 442nd chose "Go For Broke", a Hawaiian slang term from the dice game craps. "Go For Broke" meant to risk everything, give everything you have — all or nothing!

While the 442nd was being formed and trained, the 1,432 men of the 100th battalion had entered combat in Italy, September 26, 1943. The Italian campaign bloodied the 100th battalion and it suffered heavy casualties, earning it the nickname "Purple Heart Battalion" as it was depleted down to 521 men by 1944. Replacements came from men who had finished training with the 442nd at Camp Shelby.

These Japanese American units suffered an unprecedented casualty rate of 314 percent and received over 18,000 individual decorations. The 442nd Combat Infantry group emerged as the most decorated combat unit of its size in the history of the United States Army.

On June 2, 1944 the 442nd had landed at Naples and pushed to the Anzio beaches. On June 15th the 100th Battalion and the 442nd were merged into a single unit. The 100th battalion became the first battalion of the 442nd because the original first battalion of the 442nd had been used for replacements for the 100th. They were attached to the 133rd Regiment in the 34th Division.

After heavy fighting at Belvedere, Luciana, and Livorno, the 442nd was pulled back for a rest and was presented with a Presidential Unit Citation. After fighting at the Arno River in August, 1944, the 442nd moved to France for an attack in the Vosages Mountains. While in France, the 442nd was detached from the 34th Division and attached to the 36th Division of the Seventh Army. Given the assignment to capture the town of Bruyeres, the 442nd fought a bitter house to house battle and captured over 200 German Soldiers.

Their bloodiest battle occured during their rescue of the "Lost Battalion." The First Battalion of the 36th Division had been given the assignment to clear a ridge deep in the Vosages, but had been cut-off by the Germans. The battalion, the 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment (a former Texas National Guard unit), had been cut off since October 24, 1944. The other two battalions of the 141st were unable to break through. The 100th /442nd was ordered to rescue the Lost Battalion in a real-life "Saving Private Ryan" mission (More men were lost in the 100th/442nd in the rescue operation than there were to save in the 1st of the 141st.).

The 2nd Battalion jumped off at 3 a.m. on the 26th. Before dawn on the 27th, the 100th and 3rd Battalions were called in, too. Fire support came from the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion. Enemy resistance was fierce; captured German prisoners revealed that orders from Hitler were to prevent any relief of the trapped battalion. The Soldiers of the 100th/442nd fought in dense woods and heavy fog in freezing temperatures. Late in the afternoon of October 30, scouts from the Lost Battalion spotted Soldiers in olive-drab uniforms and with Japanese faces approaching and knew the 442nd had broken through.

In five days and nights of continuous combat, the 100th/442nd RCT had suffered more than 800 casualties. In the 3rd Battalion, Company K had 17 riflemen left and Company I had eight riflemen left. Sergeants commanded both companies; all the officers had been killed or wounded. The 2,000 men on the casualty list included 140 killed.

In spring, 1945, the 442nd was sent back to Italy. The 442nd was made part of the U.S. 92nd Infantry Division, which also included the all-African American 370th Infantry and the all-white 473rd Infantry. Mounting a diversionary attack in the Appenine Mountains, the 442nd took their assigned objectives cracking the German defensive line. By May 2, 1945 the war was over in Italy.

These Japanese American units suffered an unprecedented casualty rate of 314 percent and received over 18,000 individual decorations. Many were awarded after their deaths for bravery and courage in the field of battle. Among the decorations received by the 100th/442nd Soldiers were one Medal of Honor, 52 Distinguished Service Crosses, 560 Silver Stars, 28 Oak Leaf Clusters to the Silver Star, 4,000 Bronze Stars and 1,200 Oak Leaf Clusters to the Bronze Star and, perhaps most telling of the sacrifices made by these gallant Soldiers, 9,486 Purple Hearts. The 442nd Combat Infantry group emerged as the most decorated combat unit of its size in the history of the United States Army. For its service in eight major campaigns in Italy and France, the 100th Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team earned eight Presidential Unit Citations.

Second Lt. Daniel K. Inouye, who received a battlefield commission in November 1944, was one of those brave men. On April 21, 1945, while leading his platoon in an attack on enemy positions on Mount Musatello in Italy, Lieutenant Inouye was wounded in the right arm by an enemy grenade and in the right leg by another bullet. For his bravery in leading the attack while wounded, Lieutenant Inouye received the Distinguished Service Cross. His arm proved to be more seriously wounded than first realized and required amputation. Inouye was promoted to captain but not released from the hospital until February 1947.

President Truman was so moved by their bravery in the field of battle, as well as that

of African American Soldiers during World War II, that he issued an American order to desegregate the Armed Forces.

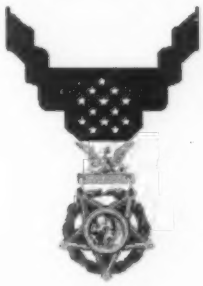
Although their impeccable service earned the 442nd the respect of their fellow Soldiers, they were not perceived in the same way by American society when they returned to the West Coast. It is a shameful legacy in the history of the country that when the patriotic survivors of the 100th Battalion 442nd Infantry returned to the United States, many were reunited with their parents, their brothers, and their sisters who were locked up behind barbed wire fences living in concentration camps. Immediately following their return, the 442nd realized that the attitudes of many Americans had not changed. World War II veterans of Japanese ancestry were welcomed home by signs that read, "No Japs Allowed," and "No Japs Wanted." In many cases, veterans were denied service in local shops and restaurants, and their homes and property were often vandalized or set on fire.

Following post-war occupation duty in Italy, the Soldiers of the 100th/442nd — who had once been suspected of disloyalty because of their Japanese ancestry — came home as heroes in the summer of 1946. President Harry Truman, in a ceremony on the Ellipse in Washington on July 15, 1946, personally pinned the 100th/442nd's seventh Presidential Unit Citation on the unit's colors. A month later, the 100th/442nd was inactivated in Honolulu, Hawaii.

In 1947, the 100th/442nd was reactivated in Hawaii as an Organized Reserve unit.

On June 21, 2000, twenty-two Asian Pacific American U.S. Army World War II veterans (or their surviving family members for those deceased) received the nation's highest decoration for valor, the Medal of Honor. This action corrected their not receiving these decorations in World War II, when the prejudice of the time kept them from receiving their just recognition then. Twenty of the 22 recipients were members of the 100th Infantry Battalion or the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. This unit (The 100th was attached to the 442nd in June 1944 and fought as the 442nd's first battalion for the rest of the war) was already considered the most highly decorated unit of its size in U.S. military history. The June 21 ceremony added a new statistic to the 100th/442nd's history: it has 21 Medal of Honor recipients on its roles, the 20 now added to its one earlier recipient. ARM

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS
100TH INFANTRY BATTALION/442 REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM



21

Distinguished Service Cross

33

Silver Star

559

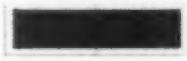
Bronze Star

4,000

Purple Heart

9,486

Presidential Unit Collection



8

CAMPAIGNS

1 NAPLES-FOGGIA
September 9, 1943 to January 21, 1944

2 ANZIO
March 26 to June 2, 1944

3 ROME-ARNO RIVER
January 22 to September 4, 1944

4 SOUTHERN FRANCE
August 15 to September 14, 1944
442d Anti-Tank Co.

5 NORTHERN APENNINES
September 10, 1944 to April 4, 1945

6 RHINELAND
September 15, 1944 to March 21, 1945

7 CENTRAL EUROPE
March 15 to May 11, 1945
552d Field Artillery Battalion

8 PO VALLEY
April 5 to May 8, 1945

JRTC Training Prepares 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry for Iraq

By MAJ Bill Nutter
Army Reserve Public Affairs

Thousands of miles away from the tranquil waters of the Pacific and the pristine beaches of Hawaii and surrounding islands, Soldiers of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment captured a glimpse of the reality they are about to face. In January 2005 they experienced eight days of rigorous training at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) located at Fort Polk, La., in preparation for their deployment to Iraq.

"We are trying to create a scenario of what they are going to see in Iraq and if we do our job, every system within the battalion from team all the way up through battalion level is tested. Every combat system, every logistic system and all the leadership skills are tested and carried out through fruition," said MAJ John Zavage, a JRTC Observer-Controller providing assessment and training guidance for the battalion.

According to Zavage, realistic training scenarios include enemy ambushes, drive by shootings, roadside improvised explosive devices and dealing one on one with the local culture. "I think they're (100th) putting all the pieces together at once. All their individual skills, collective tasks, ability to pull it all together from platoon, company and battalion level is coming together under time constraints," said Zavage.

CPT Paul Carlyle, S-1 officer for the battalion, said he can see how the Soldiers are growing through this type of training. "It has been interesting. You see a lot more role players out there, which is good. A lot more realistic. You do have to rely on the interpreters, which I think we are really finding out is good training," said Carlyle. Carlyle also added that the training is pushing leadership at the lowest level and it is good for leadership initiative. "You don't need permission for every little thing you do. It is very much a company commander's war. That empowerment at the lowest level to make decisions is what we really got to push," said Carlyle

CSM Richard Sylva, the 100th Battalion senior non-commissioned officer said he is really happy where the training has taken the NCOs. "Right now the training is building confidence in themselves and harnessing the inner abilities to do the precise right things at the right moment," said Sylva. Sylva also stated that the Soldiers will be amazed at the maturity level they will achieve after this training and deployment.

PHOTO: MAJ BILL NUTTER

100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment Soldiers answer questions from local villagers in the village of Albasha, one of the training village scenarios at JRTC, Fort Polk, La.

Engaging the opposing force's bullets was not the only obstacle the 100th Battalion Soldiers had to face. They received the opportunity to fight the information battle. Information warfare is an integral part of the JRTC scenario according to John Beckwith, an observer-controller and trainer, with Public Affairs JRTC, Operations Group.

"We have had people leave here and wonder why they had to deal with the reporter on the battlefield. When they get over to the real world situation now they deal with it and understand. It is better to prepare here then have a reporter come up and stick a microphone and camera in your face and not prepared," said Beckwith. According to Beckwith the 100th Battalion commander will conduct radio interviews with interpreters as well with village newspapers.

Many of the Soldiers are anxious and ready to get on with the mission in Iraq after training approximately five months for their upcoming mobilization, according to SGT Doveline Andres, an infantryman with the unit. "We feel we're ready to go but the training doesn't get any better than what has been conducted at JRTC," said Andres.

Andres also believes the training brings out the best out of everyone in the unit, but it also has another meaning to him. "I'm glad I'm here. Happy to be part of a voice that everybody calls freedom. Democracy isn't cheap. There is no price tag to it. I'm glad to be part of a team that's out there paying a price and I'm there with a voice, and doing something about it, not just talking about it," said Andres. ARM

PHOTO: MAJ BILL NUTTER

[Right] SPC Siatuvai Ioane, an infantryman with the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment, inspects a vehicle for contraband at a check point scenario at JRTC, Fort Polk, La. Ioane is preparing for his upcoming mission to Iraq by participating in various JRTC scenarios that depict real world situations in theater.

[Bottom] Soldiers of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment test their nerves as they show their combat presence in a small village riot depicted in a training scenario at JRTC, Ft. Polk, La. The battalion is preparing for their upcoming mission in Iraq.

PHOTO: MAJ BILL NUTTER

People

ARMY RESERVE SOLDIER BECOMES FIRST FEMALE GENERAL OFFICER IN JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL CORPS

Army Reserve BG Coral Wong Pietsch, a longtime resident of Oahu, Hawaii, took part recently in the ribbon cutting ceremony for the "Women Pioneers in the JAG Corps" exhibit at the U.S. Army Women's Museum, located at Fort Lee, Va. Pietsch is the first, and currently only, female general in the 228-year history of the Judge Advocate General Corps. She is also the first Asian-American female general officer in the Army.

PATRIOTISM NEVER RETIRES

By MSG Richard Lambert
Public Affairs Office
94th Regional Readiness Command

Alert eyes, a smooth calm demeanor, and a deep voice greet you when you get your security badge for the 94th Regional Readiness Command (RRC) Headquarters building from the acting Provost Marshall Officer (PMO), MSG Robert Risner, physical security specialist and senior mobilization NCO for the 94th.

After 30 'good years' over a span of 37 years, Risner will retire on paper, but his spirit will remain on call, and his patriotism strong.

"It is not one weekend a month, and two weeks in the summer. It is the potential to be called up at any time to fill the needs of the Army world-wide," said Risner of the commitment needed to fulfill the Army service.

"Commitment is the number one virtue you need to have. It is not about what the Army can do for me, but what can I do for the Army," said Risner of his dedication to duty.

Risner monitors the Global Command and Control System (GCCS), commonly called 'Geeks,' acting as the first-line of notification in the command for units being alerted for mobilization and deployment. In addition he monitors the world situation.

As the acting provost marshal and physical security specialist, Risner has been responsible for the force protection budget for the 94th RRC. This entails prioritizing access security projects at Reserve centers throughout New England. "Since 9/11, there has been a huge emphasis placed on physical security and anti-terrorism issues," said Risner.

"Everyone in some way owes this country for the freedoms we enjoy. I do not care how they contribute, but they should contribute," said Risner.

Risner's roots in the military are significant, and indicate why his patriotism is deep.

"My whole family is green," said Risner.

During World War II, Wesley, Risner's father, served in the Army as a major and a PMO in Iceland for three years where he met Inga, Risner's mother, who worked for the U.S. Army as a chief interpreter during that time, according to Risner.

"My brother Warren retired after 20 years as a guidance counselor in the Active Guard Reserve (AGR) and was also a master sergeant," said Bob.

"I had another brother, PFC Wayne Risner, who was killed in Vietnam in March, 1968. He had just turned 18," said Risner.

Tradition for serving his country has passed down to Risner's children as well.

"My oldest son, CPT Robert W. Risner, is serving as a physician's assistant in the hospital clinic for the 1st Infantry

PHOTO: MSG RICHARD LAMBERT

MSG Robert Risner takes a photo for a security badge in his job as Physical Security Manager.

Division in Bamburg, Germany. My daughter, SPC Jennifer D. (Risner) Grant was a medic, and is currently in the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR), and her husband was in the Active Component," said Risner.

"We all have different experiences to share. The one thing we all share is our spouses' support" said Risner.

Risner's service included locations around the globe.

"I spent two years in Korea from 1968–1970," he said. "I got out of the Army in the 70's then went back on active duty for 12 years in 1976 to become an Infantry Operations and Intelligence NCO, earning the Expert Infantryman Badge in Germany."

Upon returning to the States, Risner was assigned to the US Army Recruiting Command; first as a Field Recruiter, then Station Commander and ultimately as a Guidance Counselor earning the Gold Recruiter Badge w/3 Star Sapphires. He attained excellence in every endeavor he took part in.

As Risner served his country the Army changed. "Attitude changes, mostly for the positive, to include no draft," said Risner.

Despite the time spent away from his family, he has taken his service in stride. "All gave some, and some gave all. I just hope that my small contribution has somehow made a difference" said Risner. His official retirement date is March 12, 2005.

RESERVE CHIEF REENLISTS SOLDIERS THROUGHOUT AFGHANISTAN

SPC Chris Stump
17th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — "I am an American Soldier, and I'm terribly proud to wear that title," began the Chief of the Army Reserve during a reenlistment ceremony Jan. 22, 2005 on Bagram Airfield where he reenlisted and promoted a handful of his Soldiers.

"Take great pride in what you are doing," said LTG James R. Helmly, who also serves as the Commanding General, U.S. Army Reserve Command.

"Your country is asking a lot of you right now. I can't tell you it's going to be easy, because it's not. Uphold the Constitution and go where your country tells you," he added before he pinned rank on four of the Soldiers gathered and had the others raise their right hands and take the oath of enlistment one more time.

Serving with and for Soldiers is what Helmly values in his position. And having the opportunity to see them make a commitment to stay in is something he greatly appreciates.

"It's about service to you," he said of his job as the senior official in the Army Reserve. "You are being promoted to leadership positions. Leading is about service to those you lead, not yourself. "Rank comes with deep and enduring responsibilities," he added.

Newly promoted SSG Shawn Ryall was one leader the general was speaking about — someone committed to the Army and its people.

"I always knew I was going to be in the military for a career," said the 221st Ordnance Company noncommissioned officer.

"I'm glad I got the chance to be promoted and reenlisted by the general of the Reserves, but I'm also glad I got the chance to do it in front of everyone I've served with," he said.

"I've become brothers with the people here. It's nice to have them here to see me make the commitment."

It's a commitment many don't appreciate, both in and out of uniform, he said. "A lot of people don't understand what serving is all about. For me, it's about serving my country and my Soldiers," said Ryall.

The commitment is also about doing what fulfills oneself, the reason many Reservists sign on for one more term.

"I enjoy what I do in the Reserves as a civil affairs sergeant," said SGT Melinda Dozier, 450th Civil Affairs Battalion.

"I get to work directly with the Afghan people. I enjoy being able to see the effect we have on the people here," she said.

Having the oath administered by the chief was just an added bonus for someone who was already getting what she really wanted — a chance to keep serving the way she was.

"You are being promoted to leadership positions. Leading is about service to those you lead, not yourself. Rank comes with deep and enduring responsibilities."

"The Soldiers like what they are doing, and they're not afraid to sign on to do it again," said SGM Scott White, Army Reserve Affairs senior enlisted advisor. "Most of the reenlisted come to us," he said. "They have positive responses, they love what they are doing and they are willing to stay on, even with the possibility of doing it again."

A point Helmly made even before pinning staff sergeant stripes on Ryall, or asking Dozier to raise her right hand and swear the oath of enlistment:

"Keep doing what you've been doing," he said. "Just as Soldiers have for 229 years before you."

Helmly traveled to several forward operating bases to administer the oath of reenlistment to other Reserve component Soldiers during his three-day visit to Afghanistan. ARM

LTG James R. Helmly, Chief of the U.S. Army Reserve (right), reenlists SSG Darryn Dunn (center left), 556th Personnel Support Battalion, and SGT Joshua Nelson, 367th Eng. Bn., atop "Radar Hill" at FOB Salerno Jan. 23.

Around the Globe

CEREMONY IN ENGLAND HONORS AMERICAN SERVICE MEMBERS FROM WORLD WAR I

By SFC Derrick Witherspoon
Public Affairs Office
7th Army Reserve Command

BROOKWOOD, England — As the cold wind blew like a whisper through the white cross and star-shaped tombstones, a sense of honor, love and respect began to fill the frosty air as families, friends and guests gathered at the Brookwood American Cemetery to pay respect to deceased service members from World War I.

Soldiers from the 7th Army Reserve Command (ARCOM) participated in a Remembrance Day ceremony held at the 4.5 acre cemetery in November. The ceremony, which is supported by various American women's associations located throughout England, was held in honor of 563 missing and 468 World War I American service members laid to rest in the cemetery.

"A friend of mine, Mrs. Bella Turner, came across the ceremony at Brookwood several years ago and realized that few people in the American community even knew about the existence of the cemetery, much less that there was a Veterans Day or Remembrance Day service there," said Jana Boggus, a member of the American Women of Berkshire and Surrey. "At that time, Bella was a member of the Chiltern's American Women's Club, so she and a handful of women from that club first organized the service nine years ago."

Boggus said Turner got several organizations and schools involved in the ceremony each year and when Turner moved to Surrey she also joined the American Women of Berkshire and Surrey and helped them to get involved.

"When I moved to England in 2001, Bella asked if I would like to help out with the service," said Boggus. "I assisted her in 2001 and 2002, and then in the summer of 2003, she and her husband moved back to the United States and I took over the organization of the event."

Boggus said what really made Turner so interesting was the fact that she did not become a U.S. citizen until 2003. Although she grew up in Buffalo, N.Y., married an American, and her children are American, it took many years and lots of unbelievable red tape for her to finally become a citizen herself.

"I guess the point of that little tidbit of information is that the entire time she was involved in organizing the American Veterans Day service here, she wasn't even an American citizen," said Boggus. "I think she always felt so strongly about our country and what it stands for that she felt a duty to honor our veteran's each year."

BG Richard B. Tabor participates in the Remembrance Day ceremony honoring WW I veterans at the Brookwood American Cemetery in Brookwood, England.

PHOTO: SFC DERRICK WITHERSPOON

PHOTO: SFC DERRICK WITHERSPOON

468 World War I American service members were laid to rest in Brookwood Cemetery.

BG Richard M. Tabor, commander of the 7th ARCOM, said he felt the same duty and loyalty and was honored to be invited to be a speaker at the ceremony.

"It's always an honor to be invited to participate in anything of this nature that commemorates our veterans and particularly those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country," said Tabor. "No matter what our involvement is in other operations, such as Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and in the Balkans still to this day, it's always important that we maintain relations with our allies and that we demonstrate that we are involved and that we do indeed care; particularly in such commemorative events such as Veterans Day, Memorial Day, and Remembrance Day ceremonies like the one held at Brookwood American Cemetery."

Boggus said organizations in the United States who would like to honor veterans killed in previous or current wars shouldn't have any problem doing so.

"I think it would be very easy for any organization back home to get involved with Veterans Day ceremonies," said Boggus. "Probably the easiest thing to do is call the local American Legion post and find out what services are planned and where; and certainly, if they find out that there are none, they can do it themselves."

Honor, love and respect was definitely felt during the ceremony, but as Boggus said, the most important thing was that the goal of the ceremony was achieved; and that goal was to remember the sacrifice of the 563 missing and 468 World War I service members laid to rest at the England-based cemetery.

"I hope everyone back home and all those Americans living abroad realize how important it is to honor and recognize our veterans, but that it is even more important that we pass this on to our children and our children's children," said Boggus. "We want them to understand the sacrifices that these men and women have made and continue to make every day."

ARMY RESERVE OFFICER ATTENDS FRENCH ARMY MILITARY SCHOOL

By SFC Derrick Witherspoon
Public Affairs Office
7th U.S. Army Reserve Command

SCHWETZINGEN, Germany — For most Army officers, preparing for and attending the Command and General Staff College can be quite challenging, but try attending the same type of course in France and throwing French into the equation. That's just what one 7th Army Reserve Command (ARCOM) officer did as he attended the French Army Reserve Staff College located in Paris.

Every year the French Army Reserve Staff College, located at the Paris-based Ecole Militaire (French term for military school), conducts a three-week course for approximately 80 French Reserve Officers in the month of August. MAJ Robert A. Grumberg, commander, 7th ARCOM, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, was chosen to be the first U.S. Soldier to attend the prestigious school — which was once attended by Napoleon Bonaparte.

For most Army officers, preparing for and attending the Command and General Staff College can be quite challenging, but try attending the same type of course in France and throwing French into the equation.

"When General Tabor called me and asked me if I would like to go, I told him that I would be honored," said Grumberg. "I read an after action report from a mission the 7th ARCOM did with the school in 2000 and the commandant of the school said he would like to have one of our Soldiers attend the French Army Reserve Staff College. Because of the operations we were going to be involved in during 2001 and 2002, we didn't have anyone qualified to go."

Grumberg said in 2004 the French military school sent another invitation to the U.S. Embassy, to U.S. Army Europe, and then down to the 7th ARCOM inviting two Army Reserve Soldiers to attend its French Army Reserve Staff College.

"Finally, the 7th ARCOM received another invitation to send two reserve officers to the school," said Grumberg. "So, when General Tabor called me and asked if I would like to go, I was more than ready, but the other officer who was supposed to go was unable to attend, so I ended up being the only one who attended."

Grumberg was chosen by BG Richard M. Tabor, 7th ARCOM commander, to attend the school because of his background in French culture and his ability to speak the language.

"I chose Major Grumberg for many reasons, not the least of which was his fluency in French, which is a requirement to attend this course," said Tabor. "I was certain he would do well, knowing the caliber of this outstanding officer."

Grumberg said that his background in French dates back to his father.

"My father was born and raised in Paris and later immigrated to America, but he never spoke French at home, so I learned French at school," said Grumberg. "I was also able to take a little French in college and when I was stationed in Baumholder, Germany, I started learning a little more, basically through self-study."

"The course places some weight on your shoulders, but you just have to look at it from a professional standpoint."

Grumberg said his wife, who is from France, also helped him with his French and he also had a private tutor that helped him once a week. He added that his training in French helped him greatly while he was attending the course, which is geared toward officer development.

"The goal of the course is to certify an officer to be qualified to work at a brigade or division staff level," said Grumberg. "It is probably the equivalent of CAS3 (Combined Arms and Services Staff College) and CGSC (Command and General Staff College)."

Grumberg said the course consisted of two weeks of classroom training and one week of a brigade level exercise. He added that the course was difficult, but he was well prepared.

"The course places some weight on your shoulders, but you just have to look at it from a professional standpoint," said Grumberg. "I did a lot more homework on current French political and social issues, but what also helped me was that for the last two years I was a language judge, if you will, in Strasbourg, France, with the French military, where they send their Soldiers to get an English language qualification. So, that helped expose me to the French military a little more and how they perform their military operations."

"I was not surprised when the school commandant told me how well he had done and how impressed he was with Major Grumberg," said Tabor. "Moreover, he asked if it would be possible to send Major Grumberg back next year as an instructor. That's very impressive."

Grumberg said he was grateful that his wife and her family were able to attend his graduation ceremony at the school, but he was even more grateful for the experience he gained from attending the school.

"Personally for me, it was very rewarding to be able to give something back to France," said Grumberg. "One of the biggest things I learned was that when you deal with international issues, you have to work together and understand that different nationalities approach similar problems differently."

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Grumberg said that overall, attending the French Army Reserve Staff College was a great experience for him and now the school would like more American officers to attend the course. They have also asked to have an American officer come to the school and be an instructor. Tabor said because of the necessity to be fluent in French, it will be challenging for the 7th ARCOM to find officers to attend the French Army Reserve Staff College next year, but not impossible, as seen with Grumberg. ARM

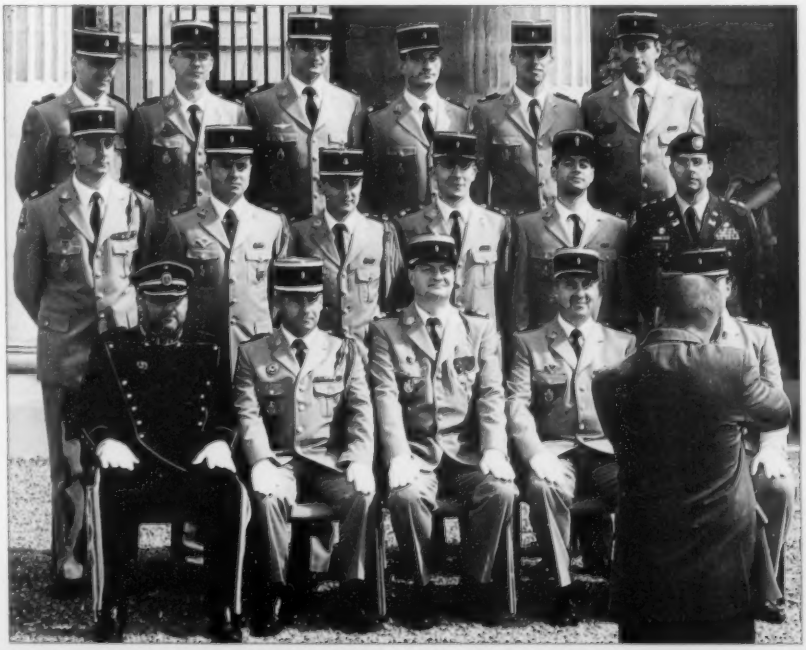

PHOTO: MAJ GRUMBERG

MAJ Robert A. Grumberg (second row, far right) poses with some of his classmates from the French Army Reserve Staff College during a class photo. Grumberg was the first American Soldier to attend the military school located in Paris.

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ARMY RESERVE HONOR ROLL

AS OF FEBRUARY 17, 2005

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SGT Gregory A. Belanger
CPL Mark A. Bibby
SFC Kelly M. L. Bolor
SPC Roy Buckley
PFC Charles E. Bush, Jr.
CPT Paul J. Cassidy
PFC Thomas D. Caughman
SPC Doron N. Chan
SPC Jonathan M. Cheatham
SSG Thomas W. Christensen
1SG Christopher D. Coffin
SSG Todd R. Cornell
SPC Richard M. Crane
SSG Donald N. Davis
SPC Lauro G. DeLeon, Jr.
SGT Catalin D. Dima
SPC Jeremy M. Dimaranan
SSG Richard S. Eaton, Jr.
SGT Bryan L. Freeman
SGT David T. Friedrich
SPC Luke P. Frist
SPC Nichole M. Frye
SFC Dan H. Gabrielson
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PFC Gregory R. Goodrich
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LTC Ira L. King
SPC Adam G. Kinser
SSG Charles A. Kiser
SGT Elmer C. Krause
SSG Mark A. Lawton
SFC Curtis Mancini
SSG Stephen G. Martin
SGT Arthur S. Mastrapa
SFC Otie J. McVey
SGT Melvin Y. Mora
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SPC Brandon M. Read
SPC Ramon Reyes-Torres
SGT Lawrence A. Roukey
SSG Cameron B. Sarno
SGT Danton K. Seitsinger
LTC Anthony L. Sherman
MAJ Charles R. Soltes, Jr.
SGT Jarret B. Thompson
SGT Tina S. Time
SPC Brandon Tobler
SGT Nicholas A. Tomko
SPC Juan M. Torres

We memorialize these Soldiers' lives
by the actions we take as leaders.

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DEDICATED TO THE SOLDIERS OF THE U.S. ARMY RESERVE WHO MADE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE IN THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR.

WE WILL NEVER FORGET

ARMY RESERVE HONOR ROLL

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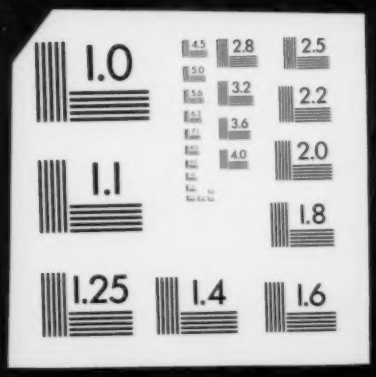
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